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HEROES ALL

CIVIC leaders and members of the armed forces took part in a moving Remembrance Day service in Southend on Sunday. Hundreds of people attended the service in

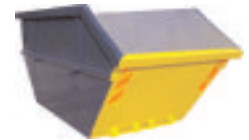
Prittlewell Square with veterans and other uniformed organisations assembled with standard bearers.

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Flag is flying for cleanest beaches yet

EXCLUSIVE

By Suzi Muston

southend@yellowad.co.uk

SOUTHEND has been awarded the highest number of blue flag awards to reach the "excellent" category for its beaches this year.

The news will mean a massive boost for the area's tourist trade, which amounts to almost £400 million annually.

Four of the eight bathing waters have been ranked "excellent" - up three on last year - with another two beaches rated "good". The blue flag scores fly in the face of the face of stricter EU scoring system for water quality, introduced this year.

The beaches awarded the highest score of excellent are Shoebury East beach, Shoeburyness, Thorpe Bay and Westcliff Bay. The beach at Bell Wharf in Leigh moved up from "sufficient" last year to "good".

Delighted Southend Council chief executive Rob Tinlin exclusively told the *YA* on Thursday evening that this year's awards were particularly impressive.

He said: "Not only is this the highest number of beaches in Southend to get the highest score ever in its

history, the awards are much more difficult to achieve with the new tougher EU grading system.

"Other seaside towns have found it difficult getting the blue flag this year - we've heard that other resorts have struggled because of this new higher standard."

Cllr Ian Gilbert, deputy leader of the council, said the news will bolster Southend's image as a quality seaside destination. He said: "Tourism is worth £380m for Southend's economy and a large draw to our six million annual visitors, so the importance of clean bathing water cannot be understated. To improve our ratings despite the bar having been raised is extremely encouraging and a testament to the effective joint working between the council, Anglian Water and the Environment Agency to improve infrastructure and tackle pollution head-on."

"That said, we will not rest on our laurels but continue to push for even cleaner beaches for the enjoyment of our residents and visitors alike."

The authority has worked with Anglian Water and the Environment Agency to repair 133 drains that had been releasing raw sewage into the estuary.



DETERMINED: *YA* reporter Suzi Muston (back, seventh left) meets Bob Craven and fellow campaigners at The Roslin Beach Hotel

Launch of ambitious caring on sea project

SCORES of campaigners packed Thorpe Bay's Roslin Beach Hotel to hear about a new project called caring on sea.

Around 60 people flocked to the seafront hotel to hear about one of the group's many initiatives including beach access for disabled people and the creating of high-tech changing facilities inside the former tram shelter in Thorpe Bay.

Tram Stop Shelter campaigner Bob Craven told the crowd: "One of our aims is to improve access to the beach for everyone."

"We carried out an enormous survey of beach access from Shoebury East Beach and Leigh on Sea."

"We know there is one ramp near Chalkwell which cost £100,000 but it's not fit for purpose - the wheelchair users get to the bottom and they can't turn round, so they go onto the sand which is tidal so it is all soft, so it's hopeless."

"We are working the council to ensure this doesn't happen again."

"There is no access at all along the entire length of our region and we are determined to change this."

"We have spoken to Kingsdown School, the children there would love to come to the beach but can't because most of them are wheelchair bound."

Bob said the children's school trips

were limited to Southend's parks. He said: "The school said they are really excited about this project, and about being able to bring the children to the beach in a safe environment with facilities."

"We are looking to provide ramps for wheelchair access to the beach and have been looking at the prices of specially adapted beach wheelchairs with huge wheels and tyres."

There are plans to equip the former tram shelter with a hoist to help disabled children and adults get changed into bathing suits.

Bob added: "We have been liaising with Dorset, Devon, Cornwall and even Scotland - these authorities have access for people to get onto the beach."

"I mean, even Scotland, where it rains so much has better access than Southend which is the driest part of the country!"

"They have the beach access and these fantastic adapted wheelchairs that we are looking at right now."

The caring on sea campaign has formed partnerships with local businesses, charities, community groups and Southend Council.

The project desperately needs funding, if you or your business can help with sponsorship, visit www.tram-stopshelter.co.uk

➤ speedread

● **SOUTHEND Council** has pledged to take in 10 Syrian refugees but it should take in more, said Labour.

Labour members said they believe the council should tell the Home Office it will support and accommodate around 100 refugees.

The UN estimate there are around 320,000 who are in urgent need of resettlement in and around Syria.

A Labour spokesman said: "The UK has a long and important tradition of offering sanctuary to those who need protection."

● **A SOUTHEND Labour councillor** is calling on his colleagues to respect Sunday as a day of rest and oppose plans to allow stores and shops to open longer.

Julian Ware-Lane has asked political colleagues to support his call.

The Government mooted plans to give local authorities power to introduce plans to extend Sunday trading more than the current six hours.

A Southend Council spokesman said: "The powers have not been devolved yet as the government have not concluded their review/consultation process."

What do you think, email southend@yellowad.co.uk

● **SOUTHEND** has thousands of empty homes. Latest figures show 2,277 homes were empty last year.

Southend Council said the figure was "a little deceiving" as it included homes that were empty for a day or two or a few weeks.

The authority said a long term empty home was defined legally as a property empty for two years or more and they considered the real figure to be 650. A council spokesman said: "The council has limited powers to take over every empty home, but does work to do what it can, and has brought over 500 back into use over the last nine years (about £115m worth of property)."

Bathing water results 2014-2015

Shoebury East Beach
Shoeburyness
Thorpe Bay
Jubilee Beach
Three Shells
Westcliff Bay
Chalkwell
Leigh Bell Wharf

Good-Excellent
Good-Excellent
Good-Excellent
Sufficient-Sufficient
Good-Good
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COMPETITION

Win tickets to Frank Sinatra tribute show

THE world's number one Frank Sinatra tribute show is coming to town to celebrate the centenary of the greatest singer of the 20th century – and we have five pairs of tickets to give away to see it.

Frankly Sinatra, is at the Cliffs Pavilion, Southend, on Saturday, December 5, and features the swing, the swagger and the velvet vocals of Sinatra in concert, brought to life by Stephen Triffitt, who is acclaimed worldwide as the master of his craft.

Having starred as Frank for three seasons at Las Vegas' legendary Sands Casino, created the role of Ol' Blue Eyes in the original West End production of The Rat Pack Live from Las Vegas that toured the USA, Canada and Europe, and sold out the London Palladium twice and Royal Festival Hall with his own solo spectacular, Triffitt promises an unmissable evening.

With a resemblance described as "unsettlingly perfect" – with sculpted hair and twinkling blue eyes, all the way down to his shiny black patent leather shoes – Triffitt truly is Sinatra as he not only walks the walk, he talks the talk in a masterful performance.

With all of Sinatra's charm backed by the fantastic sound of big band swing he promises to thrill audiences with the likes of Fly Me To The Moon, Mack The Knife, My Way, That's Life, Under



AUTHENTIC: Stephen Triffitt as Frank Sinatra

My Skin, Lady Is A Tramp, My Kind of Town, Luck Be A Lady and New York, New York.

For further information and tickets call the box office on 01702 351135 or

visit www.southendtheatres.org.uk or www.easytheatres.com.

To win one of five pairs of tickets to see the show, which starts at 8pm, answer the following question.

Q: How many seasons did Stephen Triffitt star as Frank at Las Vegas' legendary Sands Casino?

A: One

B: Two

C: Three

To enter telephone your answer – A, B or C – to (0901 307 1678) with your name, address, telephone number and email.

Alternatively text YAFRANK (space) followed by A, B or C, and your name, full address and email to 63333.

Calls cost 50p per call plus your phone company's access charge. Calls from mobiles will cost considerably more. Texts cost 50p plus your standard network rates. If you do not wish to receive details on any other products or services, text EXIT at the end of your message. Lines close on Thursday, November 19. Entries received after the closing date will not be counted but may still be charged.

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T&Cs: The first entries drawn after the closing date will win tickets to the show. There is no cash alternative. Editor's decision is final.

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Charity calls on people to join up with legion to support armed services



HELP: Members of the Leigh British Legion
Photo Mark Cleveland

Legion hosts poppy appeal

THE Leigh on Sea branch of The Royal British Legion is inviting local people to take part in a quiz night.

The branch is hosting the event as part of a wider fundraising initiative to help raise money for former service men and women and their relatives.

Last year volunteers managed to raise more than £25,000 with various fund-raising efforts. Leigh fund-raiser Hilary Le

Marie said: "We plan to do even better this year."

The quiz night takes place on Thursday November 12, 2015 at 7.30 at Leigh Constitutional Club, Elm Road, Leigh on Sea in support of branch 2015 poppy appeal. The Leigh Legion branch has also extended their welcome to others to take part in their meetings every third Thursday of the month at the Moose Hall in

Cranleigh Drive, Leigh on Sea
Essex at 8pm. The next meeting is Thursday November 19 and there will be a talk by Linda Cook about the RNLI.

Hilary added: "If you want to help and support those who have served and their families, come and join us." Carols and festive food with music by David Duncan on Thursday December 17. For more details, call Hilary 01702 522678.

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Hundreds pay respects at

By Suzi Muston

southend@yellowad.co.uk

HUNDREDS of people turned out for the parade for Remembrance Day in Southend - as forces' members past and present stood to attention beneath the gunmetal skies until the Mayor, Councillor Andrew Moring, arrived.

At 11am, the chimes of Big Ben were heard.

The service began with the playing of the Last Post and the exhortation delivered by Mr Bryan Emery, past chairman of Essex County branch of the Royal British Legion.

This ended with the words: "We will remember them" which was repeated by everyone, followed by the two-minute silence.

The end of the silence was signalled by the Reveille followed by the Kohima epitaph given by Mr Philip Hopkins of the Burma Star Association.

The service continued with the hymn I Vow To Thee My Country. While this was sung, the Mayor laid a wreath on the Cenotaph on behalf of Southend residents and the members and officers of Southend Council.

A cross of remembrance was laid on behalf of the War Widows, and other wreaths were laid by the Essex county branch of the Royal British Legion, the Burma

Star Association, the county's police, fire and ambulance services, and representatives of the faith communities.

After some Bible verses spoken by the Mayor's chaplain Major Andrew Bale, the hymn Abide with Me was sung.

During this, the Veterans Associations laid wreaths.

Then the Bishop of Bradwell, the Rt Rev John Wraw said prayers, followed by a reading given by Rabbi Binyamin Bar, an address by Major Bale and then the hymn O God Our Help In Ages Past.

While this was sung, Southend Youth Mayor, Sarah-Jane Glew, representatives of schools, other organisations and individuals also laid wreaths.

The Mayor said: "It was extremely moving to see that so many wanted to share in this solemn event to remember and honour the men and women of our borough who gave their lives in the two world wars and other conflicts since."

"All of our armed services and civilian services, faiths groups and organisations - young and old - came together to show that those who made the ultimate sacrifice will never be forgotten."

An act of Remembrance also took place at Southend High Street on Wednesday - the 11th of the 11th.

Pictures by Mark Cleveland



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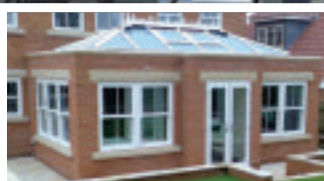
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'In the morning we shall

Under gunmetal skies: Southend Remembrance Day parade



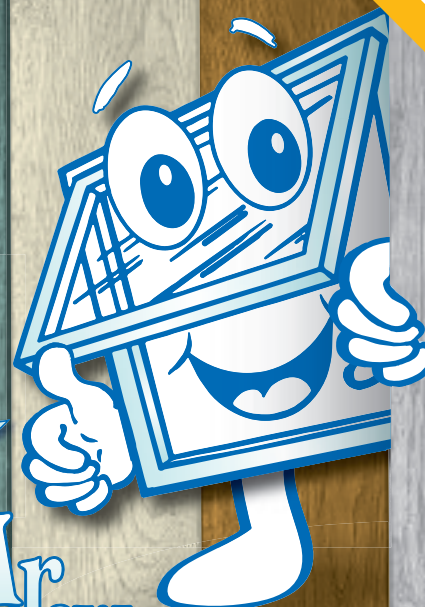
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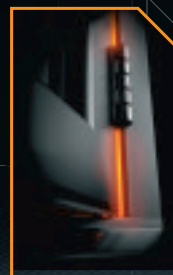
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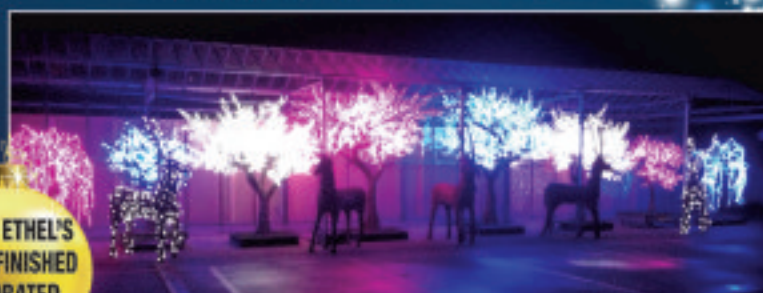


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It's time to send us those scary stories

IT'S that time of year again.

The *Yellow Advertiser* is launching its famous Christmas ghost story competition.

If you are an aspiring writer living in Essex or east London – and you have a scary story to tell – then get typing on your keyboard.

Book tokens are up for grabs

in the adult and children's categories. The top three stories will be published in our first edition of January 2016.

As ghouls have moved into the 21st century, along with the rest of us, judges can only accept stories via email.

The competition is open to schools, so we would like to encourage English departments

to take up the challenge to grab the coveted first place for their own literary protégés.

The junior section is open to all youngsters aged 16 and under.

Entries should be no more than 250 words and emailed to letters@yellowad.co.uk.

The closing date is Sunday, December 6.



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THANK YOU: Synergy staff and volunteers say thanks to Southend United FC supporters

Addiction charity hails Blues' fans

SYNERGY Therapy and Addiction has received a helping hand from Southend United Football Club supporters.

It said a donation of almost £300 from fans will be used to employ a professional counsellor to oversee group therapy sessions for clients.

Synergy has helped people in the area for the last 30 years to overcome dependency with full integration back into their family and society.

It not only treats addiction, but the underlying issues which can range from trauma, abuse, disability, bereavement and mental health issues, in order to break the cycle of detox, relapse, detox.

It can also provide support for people who are experiencing difficulties arising from stress, depression, physical problems, relationship issues, anger management, anxiety and bereavement.

Michelle Gough, from Synergy, said: "We have big plans to enhance the services we provide to the local community.

"Thanks to X Factor finalist 2014, Lauren Platt, for advertising our fundraising event at Southend United FC to all her followers."

For more about the charity go to www.synergitherapycentre.co.uk.

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Residents strike right chord with HARP to help homeless

SOUTHEND'S community has been praised after cash and food was given to a charity supporting the homeless.

Volunteers from HARP Southend in York Road said £859 was donated by people passing in Leigh Broadway.

Former GB Olympic swimmer and TV presenter Mark Foster

held collecting buckets on the day.

HARP also received hundreds of cans of food from Our Lady and St Helen's Church, in Westcliff, during Harvest festival last month.

Niqui Denkmayer, a volunteer fundraiser, said: "I was gobsmacked with how much we raised in Leigh and how much

was donated by the church. We have an amazing community here in Southend.

"Thank you everyone for your kindness, without your help we would not be able to provide vital support."

HARP provides services, emergency housing and long-term solutions for homeless people. For more visit www.harpsouthend.org.

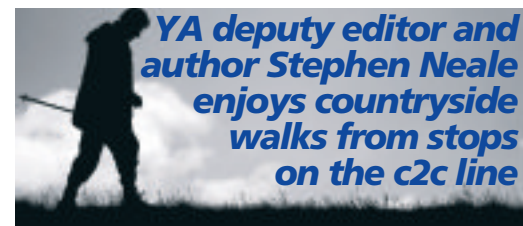
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I Walk the Line



CIRCLE: The giant toadstool ring and view from Sandpit Hill



At home in wind and rain

It's easy sometimes to forget what's right on your doorstep.

Thursday was a shocking weather day, torrential rain and wind, so I stayed close to home.

The slopes of Benfleet Downs are a 20-minute walk. No need to take the train, so walking the line, between Leigh and Benfleet stations, was a better option.

The path, and track out of Leigh, follow the Thames valley before circling up towards Hadleigh Castle. There was no one else around. Too late for the morning dog walkers, too early for the afternoon shift. A single crow hung motionless in the breeze over the ramparts, gliding nowhere like a jogger on a treadmill. I guess he was passing time.

This place has changed so much since I was kid. The Norman castle was always the highlight, but no more. Less than a 10-minute walk away is the landscaped and much visited Olympic mountain bike track. No triumph of nature; just a celebration of one. The best view in Essex. A giant toadstool ring forms an autumn arena at the highest point. From there the cas-



WALK : Leigh/Benfleet station / Sandpit Hill
START/FINISH POINT: (51.541677, 0.63954592)
DISTANCE: 4 miles (one way) 8.3 miles the loop
TIME: 2-4 hrs
TERRAIN: Easy

tle lies down in the shadow of Sandpit Hill. The mouth of the estuary spans out to the east.

Turning west, the river line can be followed towards Thurrock and down into the City. Dark clouds kept changing the landscape. The wind was so strong it dried the

grass quicker than the rain could make it wet. So I sat down for at least an hour, and made myself at home.

● Stephen Neale is an award winning, outdoor writer, and author of *Wild Camping*, published by Bloomsbury.

Read more walks by visiting www.yellowad.co.uk and searching 'walk the line'



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Fundraiser sets off on Cambodia adventure



ADVENTURE Janice Flower

SEASONED trekker Janice Flower, Essex Air Ambulance lottery manager, is off another fundraising adventure.

The 63-year-old from Maldon is joining 26 others on a trip of a lifetime to Cambodia – her fourth overseas venture, to help keep the life-saving helicopter flying.

She said: "Having previously

completed treks to the Great Wall of China, Iceland and the three Volcano's in Italy, I have got to see and experience such unusual cultures in amazing destinations and have made many friends who I know I will be friends with forever!"

To sponsor Janice visit: <https://www.justgiving.com/Janice-Flower1/>

Right to know

By Charles Thomson

basildon@yellowad.co.uk

THE YELLOW Advertiser has taken legal action against Essex Police after it covered up a police officer's misconduct.

The YA has filed a formal legal request under Freedom of Information legislation after Essex residents were banned from knowing why Detective Constable Pete Coley was sacked.

DC Coley, badge number 3595, was dismissed on Tuesday, November 2, following a misconduct hearing chaired by Chief Constable Stephen Kavanagh. He was also placed on the 'disapproved register', banning him from working as a police officer again.

Although Essex Police began holding misconduct hearings in public earlier this year, DC Coley's hearing was held in secret and police have refused

to tell the public what he did. A spokesman would only say he had committed 'gross misconduct' relating to 'discreditable conduct' and 'orders and instructions'.

He added: "Mr Kavanagh decided that in this case the hearing was held in private, owing to the sensitive nature of the alleged conduct."

In a witness appeal posted on Essex Police's website in 2014 DC Coley was listed as having the more senior rank of Detective Sergeant. In a page on networking website LinkedIn, DC Coley said he joined Essex Police in March 2005 and described himself as a 'proven investigator of serious and complex crime'.

He wrote: "I am highly motivated and good at leading investigations." He said he was 'tenacious', 'good at managing a complicated workload' and could 'make hard decisions

based on [his] investigative knowledge'.

He added: "I have investigated a large number of enquiries, including homicide and complex corporate fraud."

The LinkedIn page said DC Coley had been in the RAF between October 2000 and March 2005, based at RAF Brampton.

He wrote that he was 'responsible for the prevention and detection of crime within the RAF base'.

The page said he had 'completed counter-terrorism investigations' and been involved in 'armed patrols' and 'protection of top secret documents'.

DC Coley also wrote that he had studied law at Colchester Sixth Form College from 1998 – 2000. Essex Police has 20 working days to answer the YA's questions before it is in breach of the law, as set out by the rules of access.

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American founding fathers set sail from Essex waters in 1606

AMERICAN presidents are traditionally keen to prove their Irish roots and, while hailing from the Emerald Isle is indeed an honour, the English county of Essex REALLY is where the Leaders of the Free World should be queuing up to claim heritage.

History may well record the tale of the Pilgrim Fathers setting out from Plymouth for the New World - but in actuality, the ship they sailed on, the Mayflower, originally came from Harwich, on the north Essex coast.

Not only that, she was built there and captained by local man, Christopher Jones.

Volunteers at the Harwich Mayflower Project - a painstaking endeavour to build an authentic facsimile of the original Mayflower ship and sail it across the Atlantic to America in 2020 - can become rather excitable at the merest mention of Plymouth, which they regard as having hijacked the ship and claimed it as the Devon town's own! Check out details of what they are up to and arrange a fascinating tour here - www.harwichmayflower.com

When the first ships, Godspeed, Discovery and Susan Constant, set sail for America in 1606, they did so under the command of Harwich-born Christopher Newport and carried 144 men and boys, many from Essex.

They arrived in Chesapeake Bay on 26 April 1607 and established the first permanent English settlement, Jamestown, named in honour of King James I.

Thirteen years later, after stopping for supplies in Plymouth, the Mayflower began her momentous voyage.



BASE: The port at Harwich

Carrying 102 passengers, again many from Essex and captained by another Harwich man, Christopher Jones (whose house can still be seen in Harwich), the ship's safe arrival in Cape Cod 66 days later was to be one of the defining moments of American history.

Christopher Martin, whose home still stands in Billericay High Street, was aboard the Mayflower in 1620, acting as the ship's treasurer or 'provisioner'.

Martin had also served as a churchwarden at Great Burstead's St Mary Magdalene's Church but after settling in Massachusetts, established Billerica in 1655. Understandably, it is now twinned with its Essex inspiration, Billericay.

To discover more about Essex's important history and influence on the world, plus a whole boatload of ideas and inspiration for great days out, sail or fly over to www.visitessex.com

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Spink's had more faces than Bowie

IT was only a couple of weeks ago when Castle Point UKIP Councillor Alan Bayley stood up in the council chamber and, attempting to seize some moral high ground, called into question the democratic validity of councillors swapping and changing political parties without resigning from the council first and triggering an election.

I wonder if Cllr Bayley, upon reflection, now sees the delicious irony of his moralising following the announcement that the ex-Castle Point MP, Bob Spink, is to stand as UKIP candidate in the forthcoming election for Essex Police and Crime Commissioner?

Let us take a moment to remind ourselves of Mr Spink's political history during which time he has possibly gone through more "ch-ch-changes" of political identity than David Bowie has stage personas.

Firstly, he became a Conservative and was elected as MP for Castle Point in 1992 to 1997 and again in 2001. In 2008 he left the Conservative Party and joined UKIP but did not resign as an MP or trigger a by-election as he should have done according to Cllr Bayley's political code of conduct. Mr Spink's next transformation saw him leave UKIP and become an Independent

MP and stood in the 2010 election under the banner "Save Our Greenbelt". As we know, he lost his seat in the 2010 election to our Conservative candidate, Rebecca Harris.

Having evidently, and for whatever reason, discarded his green credentials (we understand Mr Spink is now sometimes referred to as "Bob The Builder" by some residents of Castle Point) Mr Spink is once again back in the UKIP fold.

The police and crime commissioner elections are all of six months away so still plenty of time for another change or two from this political chameleon!

Chas Mumford
Chairman
Castle Point Conservative Association

Hospice thanks its volunteers

I AM writing on behalf of Little Havens Hospice to thank three of our amazing Community Champion volunteers.

Darren Cooper, Sarah De Cristofano and Derek Briggs organised the brilliant Little Havens Community Ball on Saturday, October 17.

More than 100 people attended the event at Pontlands Park near Chelmsford.

It was such a fun evening which was enjoyed by all.

We now know the event raised £5,805 for the hospice

which will help us to provide care for life-limited babies, children and teenagers.

None of that would have been possible without these three dedicated Community Champions and everybody else who supported the event including compere Gary Ambrose and all those who donated auction and raffle prizes.

We'd like to say a massive "thank you" to them all and of course everybody who came along to the event and gave so generously.

Peter Hall
Community Fundraiser for Little Havens Hospice

Knight right

I REFER to your article about David Amess MP (*Yellow Advertiser*, Oct 30).

You referred to him as Mr. He is in fact Sir. He received the tap on the shoulder this year for...well, who knows?

So there you have it. There's hope for all of us.

Edwina White
Thorpe Bay

Ahoy there, shipmates!

THIS is a big "thank you" to this newspaper, who, along with other local newspapers across the UK, printed a letter of mine, explaining that the best way for those who have served in the Royal Navy to find their old shipmates, was to get in touch with their old Ship's Association and attend

one of the reunions, this would almost certainly lead to reliving the camaraderie they once knew.

Well, thanks to you, the response has been terrific, at the moment I have more than 60 Royal Navy Ship's Association reunions listed, complete with the first point of contact. This alone could be an old shipmate!

So, if any ex-Royal Navy reader missed the first letter, drop me an email to mike.crowe1@btinternet.com or royalnavyreunions@gmail.com with brief details of your service and who you are looking for and from which ship, and I will send the latest list through, along with the latest monthly news sheet full of messages.

This goes to more than 400 associations and Royal Naval Association Branches. All done by email so no printing, stationery, or postage and subs, etcetera.

And if you served on one of the Twelve Blackwood Class Frigates, thanks again to the letters being printed and the response, a new association has started for you. Get your name on the list. (Again no subs). The Type 14 Blackwood Class Association has been launched and the first reunion organised.

Thank you local newspapers! If you want attention and action, write to Letters to the Editor.

I wonder if you know just how much you are read.

Mike Crowe
Isle of Wight

Time for a rethink about life?

I WRITE to express my concerns with the Conservative politicians, both locally and those in Westminster.

YOU NEED A RETHINK!

Firstly, I take issue with plans to build on our green fields, wildlife sites, tree covered land and our playing fields.

I read that southeast Essex and east London are the most heavily polluted places in the land with exhaust fumes causing breathing problems and

early deaths. It has been reported that nothing has been done to combat this problem – for instance, ending our love affair with the car and walking, cycling, using more frequent public transport at an affordable cost, say a £1 fare anywhere per day.

Why don't we all work on changing the working day to, say, three hours a day and have more recreation and family time, creating a more green and pleasant land – a paradise, not a wasteland?

Why do we need money – slavery and fearmongering in our world today anyway?

It's a disgusting carry-on, Government. You are upsetting my community. You kill innocent animals and are trying to destroy my garden on what's left of green belt land.

Build more new garden cities, resolve the issues and stop this needless fearmongering.

Jason Richardson
Basildon



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■ We welcome letters and e-mails on all subjects. Please keep them to fewer than 250 words and include your full name, address and daytime telephone number, wherever possible, for verification. Anonymous letters will not be accepted for publication. Contributions may be edited for reasons of space. The opinions expressed on this page are not necessarily those of this newspaper. Write to: Letters To The Editor, Yellow Advertiser, Acorn House, Great Oaks, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1AH or e-mail us at: letters@yellowad.co.uk

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Just fancy that!

Selling SpongeBob and a few fancy dress items for hen parties led a family firm to international success

EXCLUSIVE

By Suzi Muston

southend@yellowad.co.uk

THE SALE of a small £1 soft toy 10 years ago was the start of something big for a Southend family.

George Nesnas, 23, sold a SpongeBob Square Pants toy on eBay for £32 and was so excited, dad Sammy decided to buy a box of the yellow squishy toys to sell to the world

wide market.

Sammy said: "We sold one box with ease, so then sold quite a few more, we then began selling other bits and pieces from home such as toys."

"Then we bought in a few fancy dress items for hen parties and they went really well, and we suddenly got so busy, we had to get premises."

"We got our first fancy dress shop in London Road in 2008." It hasn't all been plain sailing, after running their London Road shop, someone set fire to a wheelie bin outside.

Sammy added: "The roof caught fire. The roof fell in and we had to shut down."

"However, the next week, we moved into a premises in Hamlet Court Road, Southend, which was double the size."

"Our suppliers carried on giving us stock as because we were so busy."

The firm, I Love Fancy Dress, now provides 26 people with jobs in Southend and has a massive annual turnover of £4 million, making it one of the biggest - and best - UK fancy dress suppliers.

Sammy said around ten per cent of his sales come from Germany and France so he has employed a German person and a French person.

The firm's international relationships have spurred Sammy's son on to learn Mandarin. Samy said: "My son George has taught himself Mandarin because we take regular trips out there to meet with the factory owners in China."

"Although most of the business people do speak English it has been extremely helpful."

"All of our outfits carry the international safety mark and have passed the tough interna-



FAMILY BUSINESS: Siblings George and Belinda Nesnas in Southend

Photoby Mark Clevelan

tional safety standards which is very important with children."

Sammy said everyone who worked at the company was respected and enjoyed being there. He said: "We cherish everyone who works here and take on board their ideas."

"Someone will come in with a say new design idea for an outfit for Halloween or Australia day which is in January."

"It's an exciting process, one of the our dress makers will make up the costume, we then

send it to China, their factory will make up another version and send it back to us."

"We may alter it a little and send it back to China again and they will send us one back and at that stage we give them the go ahead and the full scale manufacturing process will begin."

"It's a fantastic fun environment and everyone loves working here, people want to do their very best when they are happy enjoy their work. It really is a fun environment to work in here."

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'UFO crater'... a pond

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The snap was taken sent to Milton ward Labour councillor Julian Ware-Lane by a resident.

He said: "I suspect it is something to do with drainage issues, but this thing has appeared recently in Blenheim Park.

"It doesn't seem either like it is supposed to be there, or



MYSTERY APPEARANCE: The crater in Blenheim Park

particularly safe." A spokesman for Southend Council confirmed it was a result of drainage works.

"The feature is

known as a 'scrape', providing attenuation for water draining from the field.

"In wet weather obviously it will have some water, in the

summer it is likely that it will dry out.

"Marginal plants (planting which is used in wet areas/ponds) will be planted in due course."

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NEWS

Council leader keen to hear residents' views

Have your say on town's future



ENGAGING: Cllr Ron Woodley is happy to meet community groups

EXCLUSIVE

By Suzi Muston

southend@yellowad.co.uk

SOUTHEND Council leader Ron Woodley has been meeting residents to get their views on shaping the town's future.

Cllr Woodley told the *Yellow Advertiser* he was determined to share the challenges faced by the authority while seeking the community's comments.

He said the information he receives from people he meets will be used when the council sets its budget for 2016/17.

Cllr Woodley said: "One of the most important – and indeed one of the most challenging – parts of my role as leader, is to understand what people need and expect from their authority and to balance these priorities against our resources."

"When I've attended events like these in the

past, many people are surprised by the huge breadth of services that the council provides – from looking after vulnerable people to maintaining highways, running library services, supporting business – and the costs involved."

He warned: "But one thing is clear, councils will receive less funding each year but still be expected to maintain or improve core services."

"We constantly have to find new and innovative ways of delivering more for less in order to adequately meet the needs of local people."

"These events are my way of engaging with large numbers of people from the community, many with specific needs and interests, and I hope as many as possible will come along to share their views."

If your group or organisation wants to meet Cllr Woodley, email kellyclarke@southend.gov.uk.

What do you think? Write to Readers' Letters, *Yellow Advertiser*, Acorn House, Great Oaks, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1AH, or e-mail letters@yellowad.co.uk

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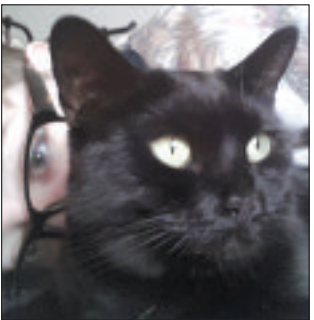
03 Donnie Thurlow and Saturn – Southend



04 Emma Grayson and Ruby – Romford



05 Anna Ford and Tommy – Wickford



06 Alex Brown and Lilith – Shoeburyness



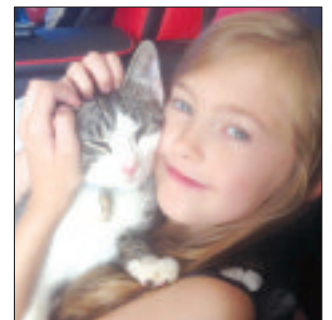
07 Niamh Connolly-Joyce and Percy – Leigh-on-Sea



08 James Curtis and Chester – Upminster



09 Bradley Onley and Toby – Thundersley



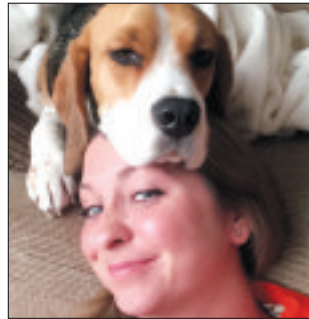
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11 Claire Adams and Flynn – Wickford



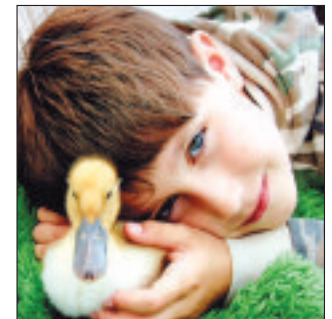
12 Isobel Smith and Gonk – Basildon



13 Kelly Holcombe and Hudson – Rayleigh



14 Jennifer Humphreys and Wispa – Southend



15 Danny Barrow and Donald – Grays



16 Dominic Baker and Ella – Gt Wakering



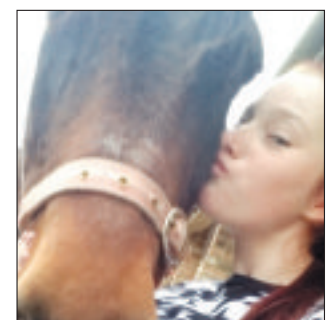
17 Karen Cutting with Angel and Loki – Canvey Island



18 Mark Everard and Elmo – Benfleet



19 Mark Hughes, Daisy and Dolly



20 Chloe Hughes Downing and Baby – Basildon

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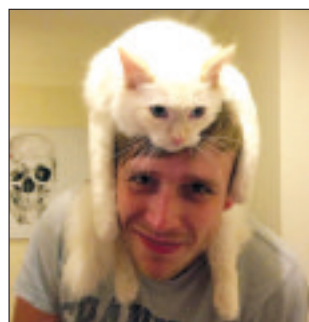
PET SELFIE COMPETITION



21 Skye Georgia and Honey – Harold Wood



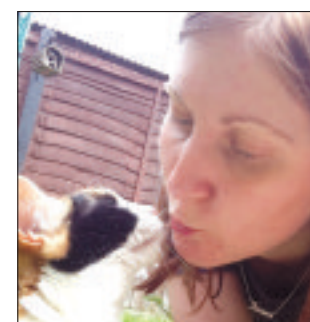
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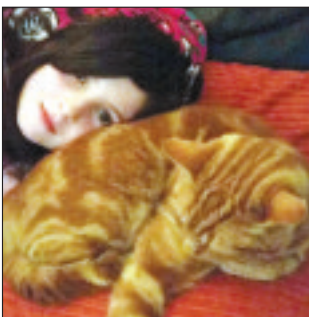
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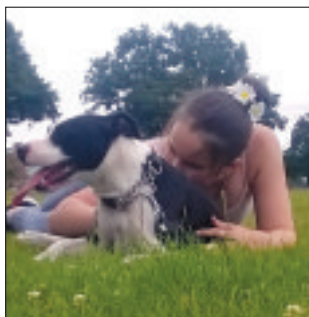
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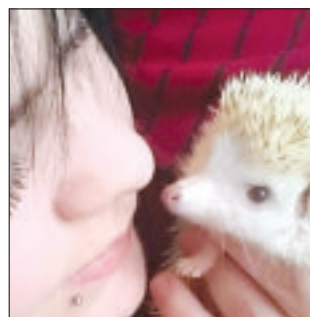
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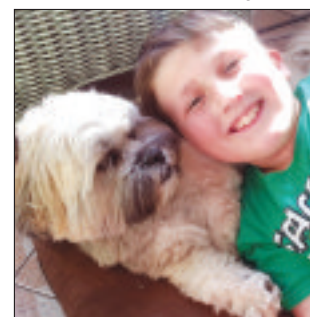
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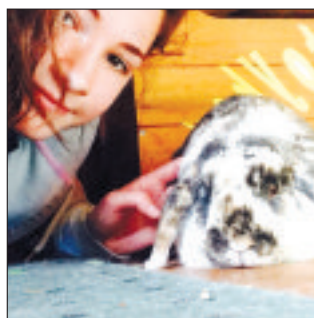
28 Molly Young and Jessie – Southend



29 Sam Hucker and Ruby – Rainham



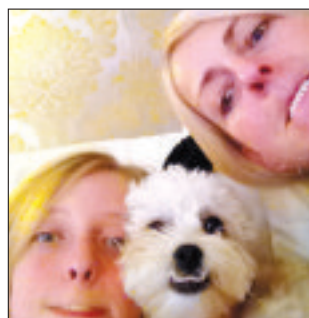
30 Keiron Daley and Scamp – Southend



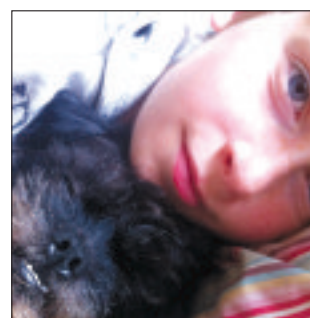
31 Jasmine Marshall and Toffee – Stanford-le-Hope



32 Ronnie Young and Charlie – Southend



33 Mia and Donna Rushman with Winston – Gt Wakering



34 Sonny Bell and Teddy – Leigh-on-Sea



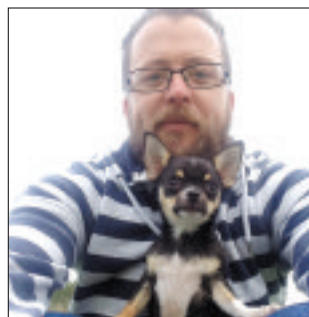
35 Kerry Edhouse and Penny – Pitsea



36 Madison Little and Toto – Shoeburyness



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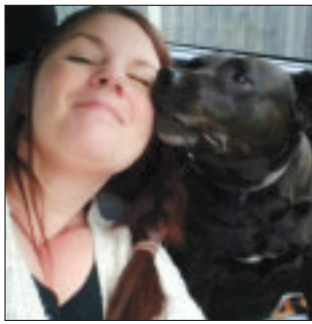
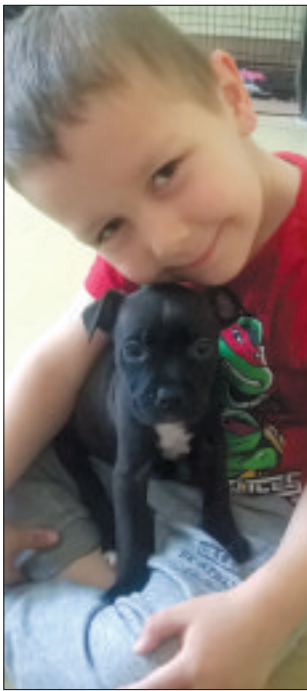
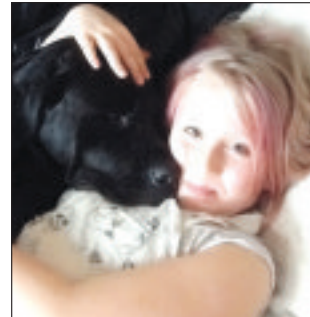
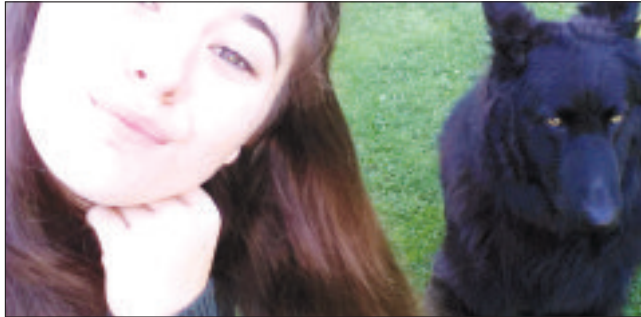
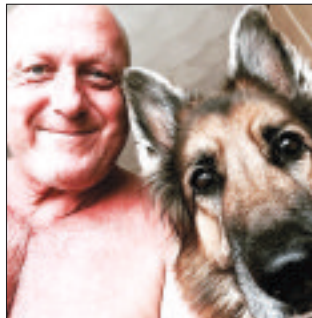
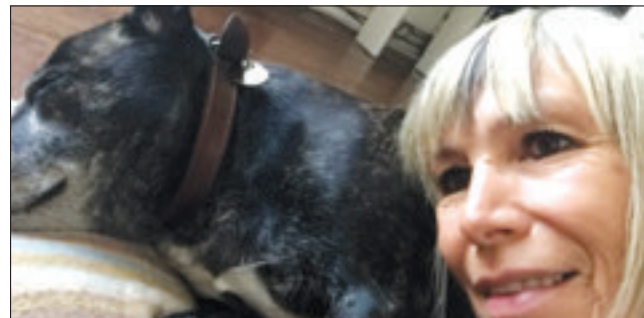
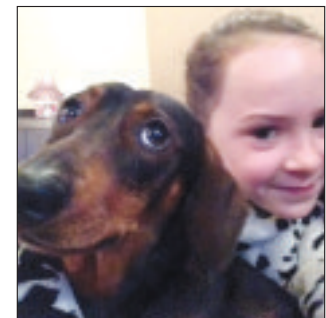
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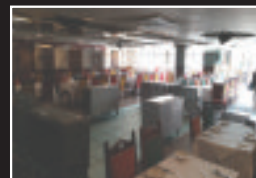
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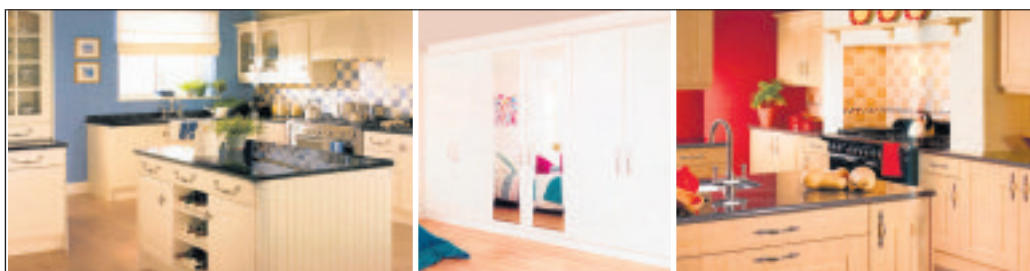
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PrimeTime

What's on and what's coming



COCKTAILS AND FLAPPERS:
The cast of *The Great Gatsby*

TOAST THE JAZZ AGE

By **LIZ WADE**

TWO classic stories are being brought to life at Towngate Theatre. F Scott Fitzgerald's masterpiece, *The Great Gatsby*, is on stage at the Basildon theatre from Thursday to Saturday, November 12 to 14, while an adaption of Frank Capra's film, *It's A Wonderful Life*, follows on Monday and Tuesday, November 16 and 17.

The sizzling new stage production of *The Great Gatsby* from Blackeyed Theatre, commissioned to mark the 90th anniversary of the novella's publication, is on a 98-date UK tour. Adapted by Stephen Sharkey, the audience is immersed in the decadence of

America's jazz age as it recreates the sights, sounds and feel of the Roaring Twenties seen through the eyes of Yale graduate and First World War veteran, Nick Carraway, who takes a job in New York as a bond salesman and rents a small house on Long Island – next door to the lavish mansion of Jay Gatsby.

The story explores idealism, resistance to change, social upheaval and excess in a society obsessed with wealth and status.

Remaining faithful to the spirit and language of the original, this adaption brings the tale to life by creating a fresh, character-driven piece of theatre with music alongside

the timeless language of the book.

Sharkey said: "Like a cocktail-fuelled ride in a fast car, this adaptation moves through F Scott Fitzgerald's great story of a doomed love and a decadent decade, heading toward its final, inevitable crash."

Director Eliot Giuralarocca added: "Stephen Sharkey has shaped and distilled Fitzgerald's novel into a muscular and narrative-driven portrait of the Jazz Age, full of cool, sexy, stiletto-sharp dialogue as cool as ice in a cocktail. Throw into the mix our wonderful design team along with an ensemble of seven fabulously talented actors, who all sing, dance and play instru-

ments, and I hope we have all the ingredients needed to give the audience a wonderful party and bring Fitzgerald's *Great American* masterpiece roaring into life."

Joining this truly fresh and inspiring theatrical experience are Adam Jowett from *Emmerdale* and *Last Tango in Halifax*, in the role of Nick Carraway, and Tristan Pate from the UK tour and West End production of *Dreamboats and Petticoats*, in the role of Tom Buchanan.

They are joined by Stacey Ghent, whose previous productions include *Sondheim: Women, Father Christmas and The Opinion*

● Turn to page 28

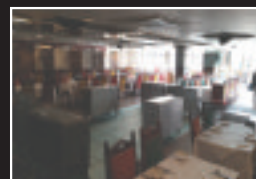
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Haddon Events



PrimeTime

film review

Apple Corps

Michael Fassbender as Steve Jobs
PA Photo/Universal Pictures

STEVE JOBS (15, 122 mins)

DANNY Boyle's bravura portrait of the revered Apple Inc co-founder is neither a traditional biopic nor a gushing hagiography.

Steve Jobs is an audacious character study in three acts that paints its subject as an egomaniac, a visionary and a neglectful father with the same meticulous brushstrokes.

Scriptwriter Aaron Sorkin, who collected an Academy Award for The Social Network, deserves to add another golden statuette to the mantelpiece for his exemplary work here.

He explores violently clashing facets of Jobs' personality through the prism of three key product launches in 1984, 1988 and 1998 respectively.

Each chapter unfolds at a breathless pace, established by Sorkin's rapid-fire dialogue, and cinematographer Alwin Kuchler cleverly conjures the mood by shooting on different film stocks: 16mm, 35mm and digital.

Michael Fassbender and Kate Winslet are mesmerising as the titular maven and his right-hand woman, who take markedly different

approaches to people management.

In the first section, Steve (Fassbender) prepares to launch the first Macintosh flanked by marketing executive Joanna Hoffman (Winslet), one of the few people who tolerates his outbursts.

When the computer's voice function glitches, Jobs verbally abuses development team leader Andy Hertzfeld (Michael Stuhlbarg).

"We blow this and IBM will own the next 50 years like a Batman villain," seethes Jobs.

Apple CEO John Sculley (Jeff Daniels) watches from the wings, bearing witness to the birth of a monster.

In the second chapter, set four years later, Jobs continues to clash with his first girlfriend Chrisann Brennan (Katherine Waterston), who claims that he is the father of her daughter.

"Things don't become so because you say so," she snaps, as Jobs prepares to launch The Cube, which he knows will be "the biggest single failure in the history of personal computing".

Bitter defeat turns into sweet personal triumph in the final act as Steve returns to the Apple fold, ousts Sculley from his perch and

prepares to dazzle the world with the iMac.

Rivalries simmer and co-founder Steve Wozniak (Seth Rogen) reminds Jobs that being in charge doesn't come at the expense of good manners.

"It's not binary – you can be decent and gifted at the same time," laments Wozniak.

Steve Jobs is another artistic triumph for Boyle, who stormed the 2008 Academy Awards with Slumdog Millionaire.

His camera glides along corridors as the protagonist barks orders, demanding nothing less than perfection.

Excellence behind the camera would mean nothing without pyrotechnics on screen and Fassbender lights the fuse on his own Oscar chances with a scintillating portrayal of Jobs, who likens himself to a conductor.

"Musicians play their instruments. I play the orchestra," he coolly tells his inner circle.

Glimpsed through Boyle's unflinching and sometimes unflattering lens, Jobs played his orchestra until their fingers bled while he barely broke sweat.

Released: November 13
RATING: 9/10

Stage



TRIBUTE: It's A Wonderful Life is coming to the Towngate Theatre

Fresh take on a classic movie

From page 27

Makers, in the role of Myrtle Wilson, as well as Tom Neill, Celeste De Veazey, Celia Cruwys-Finnigan and Max Roll as Jay Gatsby.

It's A Wonderful Life, the story of idealist George Bailey, whose dreams look set to be dashed by small-town scandal and big business, is brought to life in a new production that premiered to excellent reviews in London last year.

Adapted by playwright Tony Palermo it follows Bailey who, contemplating life while alone on a bridge, decides that everyone would be better off without him. It falls to hapless guardian angel, Clarence, to try and save him.

James Seabright and Climar Productions will present the Bridge House Production retold as a radio play, complete with sound effects created live on stage.

This tribute to the golden era of the wire-

less will be a fresh take on a heart-warming movie classic.

Oliver Stoney, who trained at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School and won the 2005 Spotlight Award, plays Bailey, while Augustina Seymour, who trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, plays Mary Bailey.

Stoney's credits include South Pacific, The Sunshine Boys, Rain Man, Amadeus, Romeo and Juliet and Wuthering Heights as well as TV's Call The Midwife. Seymour has appeared in Playing For Time, Strangers On A Train, The Nutcracker, Hitchcock Blonde, Much Ado About Nothing, King Lear and A Christmas Carol. She has also appeared in short films including Long Walk Home, Girl in a Yellow Dress, Postcards From London, and Neighbours.

For ticket details call the Towngate Theatre box office on 01268 465465 or visit www.towngatetheatre.co.uk.

Liz At Large

YA features reporter Liz Wade goes out and about



Day out with nature at old airfield

DISCOVER more about a former airfield at a visitor centre now open in the country park where it used to be.

The Ingrebourne Valley Visitor Centre in Hornchurch Country Park was opened by Autumnwatch's Iolo Williams last month.

While you are more likely to see redshank and lapwing flying over the country park today, years ago it would have been Spitfires as it was once the most renowned Spitfire station during the Second World War.

But it was even before this that Sutton's Farm airfield sprung to life.

Biplanes of the Royal Flying Corps took off from the airfield during the First World War to defend the capital, with Lieutenant Leefe-Robinson receiving the Victoria Cross for bringing down the first Zeppelin airship terrorising London.

More than 300 men and 24 women were based at Suttons Farm by the end of the First World War and it was in 1922 that the RAF expanded and the airfield was chosen as an ideal location.

During the Second World War

three Spitfire squadrons were based there, making it the most renowned station in Fighter Command and during the Battle of Britain it was bombed at least 10 times.

Between 1941 and 1944 pilots from RAF Hornchurch shot down 268 German aircraft, and probably 96 more.

By the end of the war a total of 126 RAF Hornchurch pilots had been killed and many more injured or captured.

When RAF Hornchurch closed in 1962 it was sold for gravel extraction and Havering Borough Council carried out a landscaping project in 1980 to create what is now Hornchurch Country Park.

Over the years the 97-hectare park, which still has various artefacts and relics of the site's RAF history such as pillboxes, Tett turrets and a Spitfire dispersal point, has grown into a place of importance to people and wildlife.

There is a children's play area with a model Spitfire, an outdoor gym and trim-trail.



PIVOTAL ROLE: Ingrebourne Valley Visitor Centre

Its new £1.4million visitor centre, built by Essex Wildlife Trust with Havering Council, overlooks the marshland and reed beds of the River Ingrebourne, and has a shop, café, toilets, an education and community room, as well as displays.

It also runs events focused on the park's fascinating wildlife and heritage, as well as the surrounding Ingrebourne Valley landscape, which is made up of 261 hectares of interconnecting habitats, including river, open water, marsh,

grassland, ancient and secondary woodland, scrub and hedgerows and London's largest remaining continuous freshwater reed bed, which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a local nature reserve.

The visitor centre, close to Hornchurch Country Park's play area and car park, can be found off Squadrons Approach, and is a gateway to the Ingrebourne Valley with its excellent network of footpaths, cycle-paths and bridle-paths, providing panoramic views

over the valley and its wildlife.

Future events at the centre include a bike-marking and safer travel advice session with the Metropolitan Police Safer Transport Team, from 10am to 2pm on Saturday, November 28, and a Christmas craft afternoon from 1-3pm on Saturday, December 12, which costs a £5 donation per child and needs to be pre-booked.

■ For more about the park and the centre, which is open daily, visit www.havering.gov.uk or www.essexwt.org.uk.

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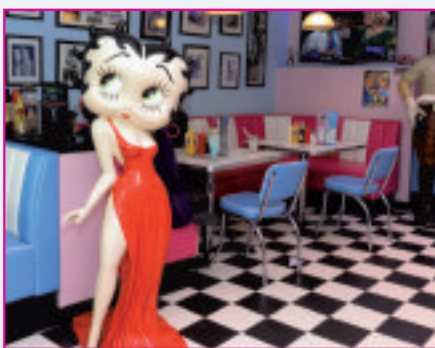


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To have your event considered for publication, send the details AT LEAST 10 DAYS before the issue date to: **What's On, Yellow Advertiser, Acorn House, Great Oaks, Basildon, SS14 1AH.** You can e-mail us at: **letters@yellowad.co.uk** PLEASE NOTE: We cannot guarantee that all entries will be included.

However, you can add the details of your event to our website at **www.yellowad.co.uk**

Saturday, November 14

- Christmas Fayre – Thundersley Methodist Church, Kennington Avenue, Benfleet, SS7 4BS, 10am. To be opened by Rebecca Harris MP
- Festival of Remembrance – Westcliff High School for Boys, 7.30pm. Tickets: £10, concessions £8. Call 07518 382390 or visit www.theorphheusingers.co.uk
- Christmas Bazaar – St Andrew's Church Hall, Church Road, Ashingdon, 2-4.30pm. Books, toys, gifts, raffle, tombola, cakes and refreshments. 50p adults, children free entry. Proceeds to church.
- Transmission Meditation Workshop – Helliwell Room, Forum Library, Southend, 10 to 11.30am. Admission free, details 01702 331609.
- Basildon Choral Society Autumn Concert – St Martin's Church, Basildon, SS14 1DX. Tickets £12 at door or call 01268 450421, under-16s free entry.
- Autumn Bazaar – Mayflower Hall, Chapel Street, Billericay, 10am-1pm.
- Quiz Night – St Margaret's Church Hall, Lime Avenue, Leigh-on-Sea, 7.30pm, Admission £4. In aid of Cat Action Trust 1977. To book call 01702 477163/540903.
- Autumn Show – Essex Orchard Group, South Green Memorial Hall, Billericay, CM11 2PR. 2-4pm. £1.
- Grand Bazaar – St Aidan's Church, The Fairway, Leigh, 10.30am-2.30pm.
- South East Essex Ramblers – Six-mile, mud-free walk along Prittle Brook. Meet 10am Priory Park car park, SS2 6NH. Details Ted 01702 619132.
- Basildon Saturday Club – For people with special needs, 9am to noon, games, music, arts, crafts. Ages 14 upwards, Frypa Hall, The Fryth, Basildon, 01268 415409.
- Club 50+ Southend – 9.30am-3.30pm daily, activities, non-members welcome, £2 day pass, details 01702 346863.
- Counselling service – The Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 01702 524346,

enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.

- Yugioh Club – play and trade yugioh, 120 Southend Road, St Catherine's Church Hall, Wickford, SS11 8EB, mini tournaments, 1.30-4.20pm. 07985 671289.
- Dads and Kids Club – The Megacentre, Rayleigh, 10.30am-1.30pm, free entry for ages five to 17 with their fathers and father figures. 01268 779100.
- Saturday Morning Club – St Michael's Church Hall, Leigh Road, 10am-noon, admission free, Inter-Church Caring for the Elderly and Disabled. 01702 437863.
- Brush Strokes Art Group – Highlands Methodist Church, Leigh, 9.15am-12.15pm, new members welcome. 01277 627043.
- Different Strokes Exercise Class – St Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend, for those who have had a stroke, 2.30pm. 01702 612509.
- Jazz workshop – Southend Jazz Co-op, Hadleigh old Fire Station, Hadleigh, 10am-1pm, £5 per session (concessions).

Sunday, November 15

- South East Essex Ramblers – 4.5-mile walk around Rochford. Meet 10am Rochford railway station, SS14 1AU. Details Brian 07707 992119.
- Ron Spack's Dinner Jazz – Westcliff Hotel, Westcliff, 12.30pm. 01702 345247.
- Hockley & District Horticultural Society trading hut – 10am to noon for all your gardening sundries, membership £3, behind Hawkwell Village Hall, Main Road, Hawkwell.
- Sunday School – The Ark, Hadleigh Methodist Church, Chapel Lane, SS7 2PQ, 11am to noon, ages three to 10. Call 07585 601815 or 07967 913344.
- Quaker Meeting for silent worship and meditation – Quaker Meeting House, Dundonald Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, 10.30-11.30am, followed by conversation.
- King's Church Southend – Blenheim School, off Blenheim Chase, Leigh, every Sunday 10.30am-noon, 01702 523639.
- Greek Community of Southend & District, Church of St Barbara, St Panourios and St Paul's, Salisbury Avenue, Westcliff, 10am-noon. 01702 466435.
- Sunday Club – TGH Evangelical Church, Kiln Road, Thundersley, (children aged three to 12), Bible stories, craft, singing, 10.45-11.45am, no charge, details 01702 554904.
- Mojo Friendship Club – Travellers' Joy, Downhall Road, Rayleigh, 11.30am, open to all, details Mo 07757 658799.

Monday, November 16

- Ron Spack's Jazztet – Oakwood,

- Rayleigh Road, Eastwood. Ian Thompson saxophone, Tony Gooderham keyboard, 8.30pm. 01702 512819.
- U3A Riverside – 2pm, Pooles Lane Community Centre, Hullbridge, SS5 6PA. Speakers, trips and interest groups.
- Coffee Morning – Christ Church, Wickford, 9am to noon. All welcome.
- Club 50+ – 1B Queens Road, Southend, 9.30am-3.30pm, daily, £2 day pass, details 01702 346863.
- Sunshine Coffee Morning – for parents in Craylands and Felmores area, Briscoe Community Centre, 9-11am, free workshop, coffee and creche. Call Dawn 07880 035968, or turn up.
- Dance class – usually six-week course, ballroom, Latin American, Ashingdon and East Hawkwell Memorial Hall. Info: 01702 546219/542349.
- Leigh Scrabble Club – 7-10pm. All standards. Wesley Hall, Leigh Broadway, Leigh-on-Sea. Just turn up or call Peter on 01268 727915.
- George Hurd Centre, Basildon, for the over-50s. Craft: 10am to noon, tai chi: whist 9.45am-12.30pm, 10am to noon, art: 12.30-2.30pm, choir: 2.30-4pm, indoor bowls: 2-4pm. £2, 01268 465854.
- Senior Citizens Club – Richmond Hall, Benfleet, 1.30-3.30pm.
- Counselling Service – The Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 01702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.
- Over-50s Keep-fit Classes – Fryerns Community Centre, details Pat 01268 770294.
- Over-50s session – Megacentre Rayleigh, 7 Brook Road, Badminton and table tennis 2-4pm. £3.50 inc refreshments and equipment. 01268 773100.
- Activity Session for adults with special needs – 10am to noon. The Megacentre, Rayleigh, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh, £1 per session, no charge for carers.
- Duplicate Bridge – Balmoral Bridge Club, Highlands Methodist Church, Olive Avenue, Leigh (opp Thames Drive), 1.15pm-4.30pm, call Vernon 01702 343611 or Tony 01702 520993.
- Duplicate Bridge – Thorpe Bay Bridge Club, 62 Southchurch Boulevard, Southend, non-members of all standards welcome, 2-4.45pm (no partner needed), 7.30-10.30pm, call Danny 07843 771774.
- Weekly Craft Workshop – St Peter's Church Hall, Thundersley, Benfleet, 6-8pm, details Michelle 07730 582784.
- Basildon Players Amateur Dramatic Group – 8-10pm, James Hornsby High School, Leinster Road, Laindon, details Jeff

what's on

- Levy 07913 426371, email join@basildonplayers.co.uk.
- Zumba – Pitsea Day Centre Over-50s, Northlands Pavement, Pitsea, 9.15-10am. 01268 465432.
- Beginners Computer Course – Pitsea Day Centre Over-50s, Northlands Pavement, Pitsea, 11am-1pm. 01268 465432.
- Short Mat Bowls Club in Hadleigh – welcomes new members, Canvey Short Mat Bowls Club, call Kevin 01268 792433.
- Short Mat Bowls – in Thundersley, beginners welcome, details 01268 779174.
- Indoor Short Mat Bowls – Prittlewell Bowls Club, Priory Park, Southend, details Ray 01268 777666.
- Indoor Bowls – George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for over-50s, Mon 2-4pm, Tues 2.15-4.45pm, Wed 1.30-3.30pm. 01268 465854.
- Whist – George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for over-50s, 10am to noon, details 01268 465854.
- Senior Citizens Club – Ghylgrove Centre, Butneys, 1.30-3.30pm. 01268 293995.
- Pensioners stall – York Road Outdoor Market, Southend, 8am-2pm.
- Evening of clairvoyance – Room 2, Paddockos, Long Rd, Canvey, 7.30pm, £3, all profits to local charities, healing available after service 9pm, enquiries 01268 691922.
- Healing in Basildon 10.30am-4pm, qualified NFSH healers, no charge, all donations to local hospice, call 07956 353564 for an appointment.
- Development Healing Circle – Face Salon, Burdett Avenue, Westcliff, an understanding of spiritual healing and prayer, 8-9.30pm, details 07879 004744.
- Fitness Walking – from Leigh Tennis Club, Highlands Boulevard, Leigh, 7.15-8.15pm, details 01702 715509.
- Scrabble Club – Wesley Church Hall, Elm Road, Leigh Broadway, (opp police station), beginners welcome, no partner needed, 7-10pm, £3, call 01268 727915.

Tuesday, November 17

- Magic: The Gathering Club – play and trade, beginners welcome, Laindon Community Centre, SS15 6NX, 6-10pm email: BasildonMTG@hotmail.com.
- Parent and Toddler Messy Play Group – Buttercup Club, St Michael's and All Angels Church, Sir Walter Raleigh Drive, Rayleigh, 9.30am and 11am. 01702 712150.
- Alzheimer's Society Men's Motivational Group – call 01702 345156 or 343121.
- Anchor Folk Club – Brooke Williams, 7-9 Northview Drive, Westcliff, 8pm, £8, 01702 715111.

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PrimeTime

■ Counselling service – The Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call 01702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.
 ■ Yoga Class – Thorpedene Community Centre, Delaware Road, Shoeburyness, 7-8.30pm, £6, bring a blanket and yoga mat, ages 16-plus. 07961 314983.
 ■ Social Dance Class – with instruction, in ballroom, Latin American and sequence, 8.30-10.30pm, Ashingdon & East Hawkwell Memorial Hall, 01702 546219/542349.
 ■ Table Tennis – 7.30-10.30pm, The Megacentre, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh, £3.50 per session.
 ■ Weekly Craft Group – Oasis Coffee House, 189 Leigh Road, Leigh, 2.30-4pm. No charge. Emma 01702 471873.
 ■ Willows Park Short Mat Bowls Club requires new or experienced players – James Hornsby School, Laindon. First session free, call or text 07952 043456.
 ■ Social Dance – 1.45pm, St Cedd's Church, Bridgewater Drive, Westcliff, Ballroom, sequence, Latin, 01702 618771.
 ■ Evening of clairvoyance – St Cecilia's Christian Spiritualist Church, 9 Lord Roberts Avenue, Leigh, 7.15pm, £2, Anne 01702 556470.
 ■ Folk Music – The Hoy at Anchor Folk Club, Royal British Legion, 7/9 Northview Dr, Westcliff, Steve Tiltson, 8pm, 01702 715111.
 ■ Tea Dance – Ashingdon Memorial Hall, Ashingdon Road, Rochford, ballroom, Latin and sequence, 2-4pm, 01702 584575.
 ■ Scrabble Club – Hockley Social Centre (rear of library) 6.30-10pm, first two visits free, 01702 205910.
 ■ Ladies Fellowship – Salvation Army in Hadleigh, 7.30pm, 50p per week or annual subscription, just come along or call 01702 551470.
 ■ The Puffer's Club, Exercise Class for people with breathing difficulties run by people with breathing difficulties, Ambleside Sports and Social Club, Ambleside Drive, Southend, 12.45-2.30pm, 01702 610050/466827.
 ■ Pathfinders Blind and Partially Sighted Group – Fryers Baptist Church, Whitmore Way, 9.30am-2pm.
 ■ Evening of clairvoyance – St Cecilia's Church, 9 Lord Roberts Avenue, Leigh, every Tuesday 7.15pm, £2 enquiries Anne 01702 556470.
 ■ The George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for the over-50s, yoga: 10-11am, sit down yoga: 11.10-12.10, keep fit: noon to 1pm, line dancing: 1.20-2.20pm, chess: 1.30-3.30pm, craft: 1.30-3.30. Call 01268 465854.
 ■ Singles Social Group – The Mews, Nelson Mews off Clarence Road car park,

Southend, age 50-plus, 8pm. 07970 432994.
 ■ Singles Friendship Club for 50-plus – South Benfleet Social Club, 8.15pm, details Maureen 01268 692998.
 ■ New and nearly new stall – outside St Martin's Church, Town Centre, Basildon, (if wet in church foyer), 10am-noon.
 ■ Table Top Sale – Outpatients Foyer, Southend Hospital, 9.30am-3pm, Breathe Easy Southend, helping support people with lung problems. 01702 258661.
 ■ Lingo and Hoy – Wick Community Centre, Wickford, 1.30-4pm, details John Clarke 01268 570575.
 ■ Top Cats Social Club, (Southend Mencap) – Castle View School, Meppel Avenue, Canvey, 7-9.45pm, for adults with learning disabilities age 25-plus, £2 per session, details 01702 341250.
 ■ Tuesday Luncheon Club – Inter-Church Caring for the Elderly and Disabled, Avenue Baptist Church Hall, Milton Road, Westcliff, for people living alone or with their carers, details 01702 478691/525141/340617.
 ■ Little Lunchers Activity Club – St Michael's Church, Rayleigh, 11.45am-1.15pm.
 ■ Vange Tots – Vange Community Centre, Vange Hill Drive, Vange, 9.30-11.30am, admission £1, snack and drinks provided for all, 01268 498642.
 ■ Shoebury Flagship – Rainbow Children's Centre, Friars School, Constable Way, Shoebury, 1.30-3.30pm, health visiting team with advice and support for parents with babies and children up to five years. 01702 577656.

Wednesday, November 18

■ Southend Anglo Italian Circle – Talk: A Day in Capri, Leigh Centre, Elm Road, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 1SP, £4.50. Details 01702 712177.
 ■ Mayflower Wine & social Club – Day Centre, Chantry Way, Billericay, 8pm, talk on the Great Fire of London, free entry. 01277 652001.
 ■ Leigh Travel Club – The Iveagh Hall, 67 Leigh Road, Leigh-on-Sea. Talk on Easter Island and Chile. Doors open 7.30pm, £2. Details Lynda 01702 474475.
 ■ South East Essex Ramblers – five-mile walk, Stambbridge and fields, meet 10am, Stambbridge layby outside nursing home, SS4 2AR. Details Ron 07903 291284.
 ■ Sculpture, Stone Carving & Lettering – Traditional tools and professional tuition. 8-10pm, Studio Workshop, West Road, Shoeburyness. Jim Davis 01702 292867.
 ■ Southend Beating Bowl Cancer

Support Group – Nazareth House, London Road, Southend, 1.30-4.30pm, details Janet Wagstaff 01702 312959.
 ■ Pregnancy Yoga Class – Westwood Primary School, Hadleigh, 8-9pm. £6 per session. Details Linda 01702 552260.
 ■ Line dancing lessons – 12.30-2.30pm, St Margaret's Church Hall, Lime Avenue, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 3PA. 07948 108195.
 ■ Counselling Service – The Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 01702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.
 ■ The Concord Ladies Club of Rayleigh – 1.30-3pm, Caley Hall, Crown Hill, Rayleigh, 01268 743240.
 ■ Leigh Singles Social Club – 45-65s, Bellini's, London Road, Leigh, www.leighsingles.co.uk for details.
 ■ Activity Session for children with special needs, aged five to 18, The Megacentre, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh. Donation of £1 per session, siblings welcome.
 ■ Graham's Social Tea Dance – Richmond Hall, Richmond Avenue, Benfleet, Ballroom, Latin and sequence dances for all abilities. 2-4.25pm, free car park, strictly over-18s, £4 per person. 01268 752473.
 ■ George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for the over-50s. Keep fit: 10-11am, sit down keep fit: 10-11am, salsa/ballroom: 11.30am-12.30pm, sequence dance: 12.30-1.15pm, art: 1.30-3.30pm, indoor bowls: 1.30-3.30pm, £2, 01268 465854.
 ■ Barn Dance – Grand Ceilidh Club, Royal Naval Association, East Street, Southend, live music, 8.30pm. 01702 553622.
 ■ Indoor Carpet Bowls, St Edmunds Hall, Pantle Avenue, Southend, 2-4pm, details Olive 01702 625069.
 ■ Played Bowls Before? Come and try it at FS&S Club, Gardiners Close, Basildon, all-weather green, free coaching given, call Chris 01268 419831.
 ■ Breathing Exercise Group – run by Breathe Easy Basildon, Steeple View Memorial Hall, 1-2.30pm, if you have COPD or recently finished pulmonary rehabilitation, call Honoria 01268 574390.
 ■ Social ballroom and Latin dancing – Mill Hall, Rayleigh, 1.45-4.15pm, with Pat and Bob. 01702 544112.
 ■ Health Walk – Canvey Sea Wall, 10.30am, meet Labworth car park, Canvey Island, details 01702 318121.
 ■ Alonan, International/Worldwide Support Group – for families/friends of alcoholics and other addicts, 1 Sutton Road, All Saints Church, Southchurch, Southend, 7.30pm, (non-denominational).

what's on

■ Pulse Drum Club – St David's Church Hall, Rayleigh Road, Eastwood, 3.45pm-4.45pm, £3 per session. 01702 540111.
 ■ Over-50s session – Megacentre Rayleigh, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh. Badminton and short mat bowls 2-4pm, £3.50 inc use of equipment. 01268 773100.
 ■ Activity sessions – The Megacentre, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh, for children with special needs, aged five to 18, free entry, siblings welcome, details 01268 779100.
 ■ Palace Writers Group – 7.30pm, alternating venues with the Palace and Cliffs Pavilion, open mic events and public readings, details Emily 01702 390472.
 ■ Roche Art Group – St Teresa's Church Hall, 109 Ashingdon Road, Rochford, 7.30-9.30pm, details Gill 01702 421737.
 ■ Advanced Computer Course – Pitsea Day Centre over-50s, Northlands Pavement, Pitsea, 9.30-11.30am. 01268 465432.
 ■ Parent and Toddler Messy Play Group – Buttercup Club, Leigh Community Centre, Elm Road, Leigh, 9.30am and 11am, 01702 712150.

Thursday, November 19

■ NHS Retirement Fellowship meeting – the Len Forge Centre, Eastwoodbury Lane, Southend, 2.30pm. Talk by Patrick Wilkins on the Wandsmen of St Paul's Cathedral. New members very welcome.
 ■ Knit & Natter – St Clement's Church, The Broadway, Leigh-on-Sea. 10.30-12.30pm.
 ■ Wakening Spiritual Centre – Memorial Hall, High Street, SS3 0EF, 8pm. 01702 476087 or 07967 578871.
 ■ Ferndale WI – Ferndale Community Hall, North Avenue, SS2 4ET, 2pm.
 ■ Alzheimer's Society activity group – To book, call 01702 345156 or 343121.
 ■ Counselling service – The Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 01702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.
 ■ Carpet Bowls – Eastwood Community Centre, top of Morrisons car park, 3.30-5.30pm, no experience necessary, £2 per session, joining fee £5, first session free.
 ■ Thundersley Gardening Association – 7.45pm, Swans Green Hall, Hart Road, Thundersley, please bring exhibits, £3.
 ■ George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for over-50s. Line dancing: 1-2pm, computer, £3: 1-3.30pm, indoor bowls: 2.15-4.15pm, bridge: 9.30am-12.30pm, ceramics: 1.30-3pm. £2, 01268 465854.
 ■ Health Walk – Hockley Woods, 10.45am, car parking in Hockley Woods car park, details 01702 318121.

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A TRADITIONAL pub and restaurant has it all, from the very best in English cuisine with a hint of Mediterranean and Asian influences to an excellent selection of ales, lagers and wine.

The Bell & Chimes Restaurant, on Rettendon Common, has a warm, relaxed atmosphere making it the ideal venue for everyone from those looking for fine dining to others searching for a quality pub meal.

Throughout the year you can enjoy a drink and a bite to eat in The Bell's comfortable bar – open all day, every day – or a delicious meal in its 50-seater Chimes Restaurant, which is open every evening and for Sunday lunch.

Its mid-week menu, offering a choice of two courses for £10.95 or three courses for just £11.95, is packed with a wide range of choices, from whitebait and Italian pasta to smoked mackerel and soup of the day to start, followed by a fantastic range of main dishes such as home made pie of the day, home cooked ham with eggs, pan fried liver and bacon, baked seafood and home made lasagne.

If you have room for more, then there is a range of delicious sweets to enjoy from the trolley. An a la carte menu is served in the restaurant on Saturday evenings which also has extensive choice including venison pate, Scottish smoked salmon, garlic mushrooms, and rosemary and garlic brie for starters, and succulent roast pork tenderloin, lamb shank, chicken Portobello – chicken breast smothered with Madeira and mushroom sauce – as well as grill and fish dishes for mains.

All of this is complemented by a wide range of side orders and desserts including sweets from the trolley. More choice is available on Sunday as staff serve a snack menu in the bar area and a comprehensive blackboard which always includes a choice of four roasts, the famous



home made pie of the day and fresh fish, and other dishes. Sunday lunch menu costs £8.95 for a main meal, £10.75 for two courses and £12.25 for three courses.

There is also a comprehensive bar menu offering a range of favourites from prawn cocktail, potato wedges and rack of ribs, to burger meals, scampi and ploughman's.

The Chimes Restaurant can also be hired for private functions, whether you want to enjoy a sit-down meal for up to 50 people, or a buffet-style celebration for up to 100.

During the summer you can enjoy al fresco dining at the front of the premises, and every Thursday evening from 9pm there is a quiz night in the bar area.

With so much to offer, including free wi-fi, it

is clear why so many people make The Bell & Chimes their first choice, whether they want a quick lunch, a bite to eat after work, the perfect location for a social gathering or celebration, or the venue for a business lunch.

It is now taking bookings for Christmas for the special three-course party menu which will be available from December 1 to 23, except Sundays, and costs just £15.95 per person, and £7.95 for children under 10.

Anyone interested in the Christmas party menu, or making a reservation for Christmas Day or Boxing Day, is urged to book early to avoid disappointment.

To make a reservation call The Bell & Chimes Restaurant on 01245 400616 or visit www.bellandchimesrettendon.co.uk.

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Feast of events at Blue Chutney

Advertisement feature

FINE traditional Indian cuisine and fantastic entertainment is on offer at Blue Chutney.

The popular restaurant, at 31 The Broadway, Wickford, serves an extensive selection of dishes, thanks to its award-winning chef, Kamrul Islam, who won the UK Curry Life magazine and the Bangladesh Caterers Association (BCA) awards.

As well as freshly preparing an extensive range of traditional Indian cuisines, Kamrul serves a variety of specialities and recommended dishes to suit a range of tastes and mouth-watering cuisine includes Bombay sizzling tava, zinga delight and shashlik chicken masala.

Blue Chutney is not only the place to be to enjoy delicious food but it also the venue to enjoy a variety of entertainment such as tribute nights.

Up-and-coming tribute nights, which include a delicious four-course set menu and cost from just £23.95 per person, include Harry Cambridge as Luther Vandross on Friday, November 20 and Scott Elvis as Elvis on November 27.

Entertainment evenings during December, which cost £22.95 and also include a delicious four-course set, include singers Stacy Parsons on Friday, December 4; Valentina on Saturday, December 5; Miss Morgan on Friday, December 11; Rachel Leach on Saturday, December 12; Steve Moyse on Friday, December 18; and Nadibella on Saturday, December 19.

Vocalist Valentina will also be providing the entertainment at the restaurant on New Year's Eve, when you can enjoy a special set menu for just £34.95 per person.

The restaurant will also be serving a Boxing Day four-course banquet for just £15.95 for adults and £9.50 for children under 10.



Throughout the year diners are invited to party at Blue Chutney thanks to its drinks promotion every Wednesday and Friday evening.

Enjoy a starter, main course, side dish, rice or naan bread from the menu (king prawn £3.30 extra), as well as much drink as you want for one hour and 45 minutes.

You must book your table in advance to enjoy this offer, which costs £20.95 per person on Wednesday and £25.95 on Fridays.

Drinks include Cobra and Carling draught beer, wine by the glass, spirits – vodka, gin, brandy, and whisky – as well as Malibu, Baileys, Archers and soft drinks (excludes wines by the bottle and champagne, terms and conditions apply).

On Sunday and Thursday there is a five-course banqueting night to enjoy which includes one starter, any one main course, one side dish and any one sundries, plus coffee, for only £10.95 on Sunday and £11.95 on Thursday. Again table booking is required.

The restaurant, which offers a full takeaway service with free local delivery, is open from noon to 2pm and from 5.30pm to 10.30pm, Monday to Thursday; from noon to 2pm and 5.30pm to 11.30pm on Friday and Saturday; and from 1pm to 10.30pm on Sunday.

For more or to make a reservation call 01268 763866, e-mail bluechutney@hotmail.com, or visit the website at www.blue-chutney.com for the latest cabaret acts and menus.

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 Brie Wedges served with a Cranberry Dip
 Breaded Mushrooms Garlic Mushrooms in a Crispy Coating served with Garlic Mayonnaise

Main Course

Roast Turkey Succulent Breast of Turkey with all the Trimmings
 Roast Beef Served with all the Trimmings
 Breast of Chicken Succulent Chicken served with a Creamy
 Leek & Pancetta Sauce
 Salmon Served with a Cream of Parsley and White Wine Sauce
 Parsnip, Sweet Potato & Chestnut Bake

Desserts

Christmas Pudding served with Brandy Sauce
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Christmas Day Menu

Starters

Sweet Potato & Red Onion Soup served with Crusty Roll & Butter
 Smoked Salmon & Prawn Cocktail drizzled with a Marie Rose Sauce
 Smoked Chicken served with Cranberry & Chilli Chutney
 Cod & Smoked Haddock Fish Cakes with a Cheese filling, served with a Lemon Mayonnaise
 Giant Field Mushroom stuffed with Spinach, Avocado & Stilton

Main Course

Roast Turkey succulent Breast of Turkey with all the Trimmings
 Roast Beef served with all the Trimmings
 Pesto Crusted Roast Fillet of Salmon stuffed with Vine Roasted Tomatoes & Basil
 Nut Loaf Roast served with all the Trimmings

Desserts

Christmas Pudding served with Brandy Sauce
 Dark Chocolate Truffle Torte
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 Cheese and Biscuits
 Coffee and Mints

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The property is a must-view to appreciate the accommodation on offer which includes a spacious lounge, separate dining room, modern fully-fitted kitchen/breakfast room, ground floor cloakroom, utility room, study and conservatory.

The first floor has four good-sized bedrooms with en-suite bathroom to the master bedroom and a modern three-piece white family bathroom suite.

Outside there is a wraparound rear garden including an attractive fountain, paved patio areas and decking with the rest being laid to lawn with a summer house in addition to the pool house.

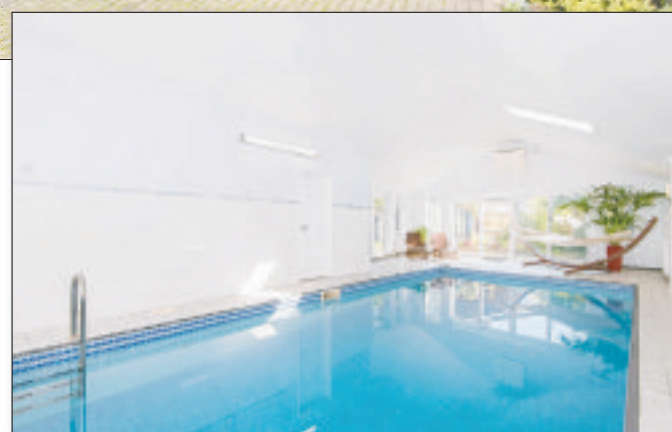
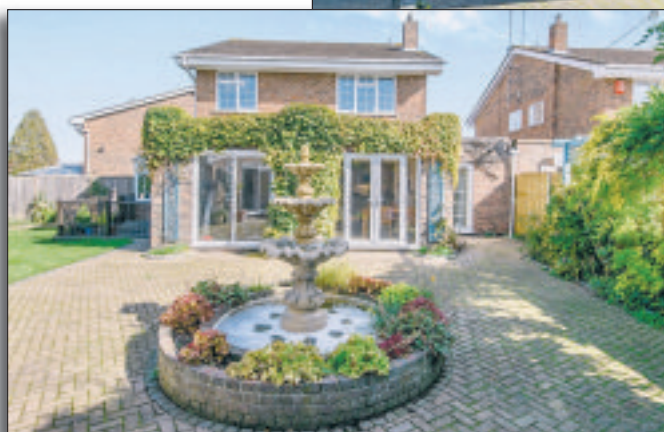
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Immaculate Semi Detached Bungalow with large garden. Large Lounge. Fitted kitchen/Breakfast Room. Sun Lounge. 2 Double Bedrooms. Bathroom/w.c. Space to Build Garage. Recommended. EER D.



WESTCLIFF £135,000 FREEHOLD

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WESTCLIFF £199,995

Excellent Purpose Built Ground Floor Flat situated in small block in sought after area. Lounge. Gallery Style Kitchen. Double Bedroom. Bathroom/w.c. Communal Gardens. Garage In Block. Recommended. EER D.



WESTCLIFF £425,000

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CLOSE CHALKWELL PARK £153,000

Excellent Ground Floor Retirement Flat. Dual aspect, overlooking garden. Lounge. Bedroom. Fitted Kitchen. Wet Room/shower/w.c. Recommended. EER D.



SOMERSET ESTATE WESTCLIFF £335,000

Character Semi Detached Bungalow. Lounge. Dining Room. Fitted Kitchen. Bathroom/w.c. Medium Sized Rear Garden. Garage With Own Drive and Additional Parking. EER E.



WESTCLIFF £325,000

Spacious Detached House With Garage. 2 Reception Rooms. Kitchen. 3 Bedrooms. Bathroom. Separate w.c. Medium Sized Rear Garden with open aspect. EER G.



SOMERSET ESTATE WESTCLIFF £425,000

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WESTCLIFF £280,000

Immaculate Detached Double Fronted Bungalow situated in quiet Cul-de-Sac. 2 Reception Rooms. Fitted Kitchen. Sun Lounge. 2 Double Bedrooms. Bathroom/w.c. Secluded Garden. Garage. Recommended. EER E.

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THUNDERSLEY £210,000

Surprisingly spacious 2 bedroom home offering comparable living space to a bungalow within walking distance of Thundersley Village. Large lounge/diner with fireplace and French doors, generous kitchen with breakfast bar, bathroom and brand new ensuite wet room as well as off street parking.

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ONWARD
CHAIN!



BOWERS GIFFORD £260,000

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- * South facing rear garden
- * Garage and parking
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- * EPC Band D



HADLEIGH £299,995

- * 3/4 semi detached family home
- * King John School Catchment
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- * Sought after location
- * Double glazed window & gas central heating



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SOUTHEND-ON-SEA £285,000

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- * Lounge To Front
- * Separate Dining Room
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- * Off Road Parking & Garage
- * No Onward chain



NEW ON
MARKET



SOLE AGENTS

BASILDON £235,000

- * Mid-Terraced House
- * 3 Bedrooms, 2 of Which Are Good Sized Doubles
- * Lounge To Front
- * Separate Dining Room
- * Ground Floor 2pce Cloak Room
- * 3pce Family Bathroom
- * Double Glazed, Gas Central Heating, Narcoff Gold Approved Alarm System
- * Ideal For Investment or First Time Purchase
- * EPC Band D



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- * Double Glazed
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- * Rear Garden with Patio Area
- * Energy Efficiency Band D

**LEIGH-ON-SEA £2195 pcm**

- * Four Bed Character Detached House.
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- * Bathroom with Roll Top Bath
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WESTCLIFF ON SEA £290,000 to £300,000

If you are looking to enjoy life on one level and are looking for something you can add your own stamp to, and then look no further! This home is simply charming! It offers plenty of character, spacious rooms, lovely conservatory overlooking the beautifully kept garden to enjoy in the summer months, and versatile accommodation. This lovely home could be all yours! Contact us today to arrange your viewing!



SOUTHEND ON SEA £129,000

Penneck Estates the agent on the park... We are delighted to offer this purpose built 1 double bedroom 1st floor flat which has partial views over Southend Football ground! The property is situated in popular development with allocated parking and also visitor parking. PRITTLEWELL station is within a short stroll & the Town Centre is within easy distance as is Southend Hospital.



WESTCLIFF ON SEA £133,500

Penneck Estates ... The Agent on the Park are pleased to offer for sale this sought after 1 BEDROOM ground floor apartment which has the advantage of patio doors from the lounge to communal gardens. Kingswell development is for the over 55's and therefore offers all the facilities you would expect including a house manager. Kingswell is situated literally within 200 yard/metres walking distance of Chalkwell Park also Chalkwell Park shopping parade.



WESTCLIFF ON SEA £125,000-£135,000

Penneck Estates The Agent on the Park Offer as IDEAL FIRST OR INVESTMENT PURCHASE this newly decorated and NEW CARPETS 1st floor flat situated SOUTH OF THE LONDON RD with distant ESTUARY VIEWS to the side. Ideally located for COMMUTERS as the C2C Westcliff station is within 400 yards.



WESTCLIFF ON SEA £850 PCM

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LEIGH ON SEA £800 PCM

PENNECK ESTATES ... The Agents on the Park Offer this lovely two bedroom first floor apartment which offers fantastic views from the Pier to Two Tree Island and over the Library Gardens, from the Lounge kitchen and both bedrooms, this flat is not to be missed. Stunning views!



LEIGH ON SEA £1150 PCM

PENNECK ESTATES ... are delighted to offer for rent this THREE bedroom end of terraced house which benefits from having OFF STREET parking and good size WEST facing rear garden. The property comprises lounge/diner, 2 RECEPTION ROOMS and fitted kitchen on the GROUND FLOOR with TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS.

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Detached Bungalow walking distance of Leigh Station £369,995

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Westcliff-on-sea £335,000

PROBATE SALE - 2/3 Bedroom character bungalow in sought after Somerset Estate location, 60' south facing rear garden, large garage and private driveway, three bedrooms, or two bedrooms plus three reception rooms, upvc double glazed conservatory, kitchen, bathroom/ w.c. KEYS AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING. Ref etl5385



Close to beach and walking distance of station, SOUTHEND £269,995

THREE DOUBLE BEDROOM town house style family home just a few hundred from the BEACH and walking distance of Southchurch Park and Southend East STATION. En suite shower room and dressing room to master bedroom, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, double glazing, gas c/h, family bathroom, GARAGE and parking space. BOOK AN ACCOMPANIED VIEWING SOON - DECEMBER COMPLETION POSSIBLE. Ref etl5369



Westcliff £295,000

Beautifully maintained three bedroom semi-detached house situated in a sought after location within easy reach of Southend Hospital and local High Schools. This family home benefits from two reception rooms plus a spacious conservatory/ utility room, fitted kitchen, gas c.h., double glazing, good size rear garden, garage and off street parking. early viewing is strongly advised. Ref etl5365

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Westcliff on sea £279,995

An excellent opportunity to purchase this spacious two double bedroom semi-detached bungalow situated in a peaceful 'no through road' location yet within easy walking distance of local shops, Southend hospital and bus route to surrounding areas. Pretty garden with decking patio, spacious lounge, lovely bathroom, 21' x 15' open plan kitchen and dining room, off street parking, NEW ROOF. Ref etl5380

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RAYLEIGH £279,995

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HULLBRIDGE £259,995

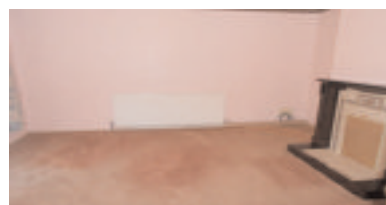
DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS! - NO ONWARD CHAIN! - Set Within This Hugely Popular Village Location, We Are Pleased To Offer This THREE BEDROOM Semi Detached Home Featuring A Large Kitchen Opening Onto A Good Size Dining Room, Secluded Garden & Much More. A MUST SEE!



BENFLEET £499,995

An absolutely charming character THREE BEDROOM family home set within one of Benfleet's most prestigious roads just a short distance from Town & Station.

The property includes a delightful 150' rear garden PLUS a FULLY SELF CONTAINED ANNEXE. Viewing of this fine home is essential.



RAYLEIGH £325,000

An exciting opportunity to purchase this THREE BEDROOM semi detached bungalow set within this highly regarded location within easy reach of Town and Station. The property features a delightful rear garden approaching 100' in length and offers potential to extend (subject to planning consent)



RAYLEIGH £299,995

We Are Delighted To Offer For Sale This Three Bedroom Detached Home In The Highly Sought After Rayleigh Primary School Catchment! The Property Is Minutes From Rayleigh Station and High Street And With No Onward Chain. Viewing Comes Highly Recommended! EPC Rating E.



RAYLEIGH £325,000

A rare opportunity to purchase this TWO DOUBLE BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW situated along one of Rayleigh's premier turnings, just moments from Town & Station. The deceptively spacious accommodation includes a recently refitted shower room, good size lounge/diner and NO ONWARD CHAIN.

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Southend On Sea £295,000



Mid terrace family house situated within a sought after location of Southchurch close to Southchurch Park and Southend East railway station. The property benefits from three double bedrooms as well as West backing rear garden and also has the advantage of side access. The property requires some general refurbishment which has been reflected in the asking price.

Westcliff On Sea £285,000



Sorrell are favoured with instructions to offer for sale this unique detached house built by a local award winning reputable builder. The accommodation comprises attractive ground floor living space along with two large double bedrooms. The property has the benefit of off street parking and integral garage along with attractive established garden and is newly carpeted and decorated throughout Full double glazing and gas central heating. No onward chain.

Westcliff On Sea £245,000



A rare opportunity has arisen to purchase this spacious three bedroom 9th floor Marine apartment offering superb views across Southend and the Thames Estuary. The property benefits from two balconies, and is situated along the prestigious Westcliff Parade. The apartment has a welcoming lobby area and two lifts to all floors along with on site caretaker. The property also benefits from full double glazing situated close to three railway stations on the Fenchurch Street and Liverpool Street Lines as well as Southend town centre shopping facilities. There is no onward chain and keys are held for viewing.

Westcliff On Sea £725 pcm



This second floor apartment offers three good size bedrooms and has a spacious lounge/diner with a South facing aspect. There is a modern fitted kitchen and a bathroom with an electric shower over, separate wc. Estuary views, full double glazing and gas central heating, four ring gas hob with oven and grill under.



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Ask the Agent

Alan Kirkman

Q. Is this a good time to buy?

A. This is one of those questions which can be as straightforward as can be as complex as you choose to make it – more so since I have no idea whether you are a first-time or otherwise “unencumbered” buyer, or someone who, like most of us, also has a property to sell.

Either way, of course, we're all subject to the market – and at the moment, the market is rather interesting. Since before the end of last year, agents all over the country have been reporting a shortage of instructions. This imbalance between supply and demand duly created a seller's market, in which those relatively few properties that did come up for sale tended to be snapped up pretty quickly, and for good prices.

Now normally, this sort of situation would soon bring out hoards of additional vendors, all hoping to cash in on the bonanza – and as a result, things would gradually stabilise again – and maybe even swing in favour of the buyer. That's how the property market self-adjusts. But this time, it hasn't happened. First,



Alan Kirkman is a Director of both Tudor Estates in Southend and Essex TEAM part of a network of independently owned estate agents who share their instructions for the benefit of giving their client properties maximum market exposure. Alan has been an estate agent for over 32 years.

the traditional January surge in new instructions didn't really happen. Nor did the expected post-Election boom. Finally, the Autumn pickup didn't materialise either. And now, alongside this continuing shortage of new instructions, agents have also been reporting a falling off in buyer activity!

So, to cut a long story slightly shorter, the net result of all this is an effectively balanced market, in which the continuing shortage of instructions has begun to be offset by a lack of

buyers. Precisely why this should be is a subject of some debate. But whatever the reason, the net result is that it is difficult to discern any significant advantages – or disadvantages, come to that – to buying at the present time. Of course, as always, if you are the sort of buyer who is able to move quickly on a purchase, it's possible that you might be lucky enough to pick up a bit of a bargain. But, inevitably, that advantage becomes more marginal if you have to sell an existing property first.

Ultimately, however, all this agonising over tactical advantage really only underlines the fact that we should always buy or sell when it suits us – rather than trying to second-guess the market.

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Rebooted Focus can hold its own

By John Murdoch

FOCUS has been the best-selling family hatch in the UK for years because it is very good. The current generation arrived on the scene last November and there is something for everyone in the new line-up with a range of models and engines to choose from.

Buyers can select from basic models up to the stunning, high performance ST model and from a variety of turbo petrol and diesel engines.

The latest third-generation Focus sets the standard in the family hatchback market, providing a smart blend of quality, comfort and handling.

The latest improvements provided the Focus with more upmarket-looking chrome grille, narrower headlights and an improved interior. A new range of engines and techno treats were also introduced to help keep it ahead of its rivals.

The hatch offers bags of space but if you need more you can opt for the fine estate model which drives and handles as well as its sibling.

Now available in five main specifications – entry-level Studio, Style, the mid-range Zetec and top-of-the-range Titanium and Titanium X – buyers who are after more performance can also choose between the sporty Zetec S or the excellent Focus ST.

The engine line-up features economical diesel and smooth petrol engines and this



RELIABLE: Ford Focus Style 1.0 stop/start

car was the 1.0-litre T Style five-door with Stop/Start, priced at £17,945. The Style is only one grade above the entry level model but it is not short of standard equipment.

You get a DAB radio with a CD player, steering wheel audio controls, Ford SYNC (including Bluetooth and Voice Control) with emergency assistance, air conditioning, electric front windows, a trip/fuel computer, cruise control with active speed limiter, hill start assist, an Eco Mode driver information system, remote locking, electric door mirrors and a Thatcham alarm.

Safety equipment includes numerous airbags, an electronic stability programme,

emergency brake assist, Ford's intelligent protection system, vectoring control and a tyre pressure monitoring system.

The frugal 1.0-litre EcoBoost engine may not suit all tastes but it is very capable. It emits 99g/km of CO2 and since the current car is lighter than the old model it does not struggle.

It is smooth and has a top speed of 115mph and takes 11.9 seconds to reach 62mph.

The five-speed gearbox has a slick action and you need to use it well to make good progress. The Focus provides an entertaining drive thanks to sharp steering and a respon-

sive chassis. It has the edge on most of its rivals when it comes to handling and the suspension has been improved to make things even better.

Inside the latest Focus is a big improvement over the old model. An all-new dash brings things up to date and the quality of the materials used is better than before with soft-touch plastics replacing scratchy surfaces.

The blue lighting makes the instruments look classy and the displays are all much easier to read.

Ford claims the car is capable of 65.7mpg on the combined cycle but I couldn't match that. I still averaged more than 50mpg – not bad for a car of this size.

The Focus may be up against some tough opposition but the update means that it can still hold its own in a very competitive sector.

FAST FACTS

Price: £17,945
Mechanical: 100bhp, 999cc, three-cylinder petrol engine driving front wheels via five-speed manual gearbox
Max speed: 115mph
0-62mph: 11.9 seconds
Combined mpg: 65.7
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CO2 emissions: 99g/km
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I, Theodoramoorthy, Karthikeyan, hereby make application for a Premises Licence in respect of 82 Leigh Road Leigh-on-Sea SS9 1BZ. The relevant licensable activities which it is proposed will be carried on are: the supply of alcohol for consumption off the premises daily between 09.00 and 22.00; extended to midnight on the following days: Maundy Thursday to Easter Monday and 10th December to New Year's Eve. Responsible authorities or any person may make representations to the Licensing Authority (Southend-on-Sea Borough Council). All such representations shall be made in writing, by 2nd December 2015. Representations should be sent to The Licensing Authority, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, Civic Centre Victoria Avenue Southend-on-Sea Essex SS2 6GZ or emailed to lic2003@southend.gov.uk. A record of the application, and the statutory register of the Licensing Authority, may be inspected at the Council's office address given above, between 10.00am and 4.00pm on Mondays to Fridays or on their website www.southend.gov.uk. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application, and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction is level 5 on the standard scale. Dated: 4th November 2015.

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LICENSING ACT 2003 Notice of Application for a Premises Licence

I, Mrs Felma Castillo Golan hereby make application for a Premises Licence in respect of Castle Grill and Tapas Restaurant, 206 London Road Southend-on-Sea SS1 1PJ. The relevant licensable activities which it is proposed will be carried on are: the supply of alcohol for consumption on and off the premises Sunday to Thursday between 10.00 and 23.00 and on Fridays and Saturdays between 10.00 and 00.00 plus late night refreshment (LNR) on Fridays and Saturdays between 23.00 and 00.30. The hours for both activities are 10.00 (23.00 for LNR) to 00.30 on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Responsible authorities or any person may make representations to the Licensing Authority (Southend-on-Sea Borough Council). All such representations shall be made in writing, by 2nd December 2015. Representations should be sent to The Licensing Authority, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, Civic Centre Victoria Avenue Southend-on-Sea Essex SS2 6GZ or emailed to lic2003@southend.gov.uk. A record of the application, and the statutory register of the Licensing Authority, may be inspected at the Council's office address given above, between 10.00am and 4.00pm on Mondays to Fridays or on their website www.southend.gov.uk. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application, and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction is level 5 on the standard scale. Dated: 4th November 2015.

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Roach Estuary Tidal Defences and Sluices Repairs

The Environment Agency gives notice that it proposes to carry out improvement works to the Roach Estuary Tidal Defences at Paglesham (TQ9478392130 to TQ9369991263); Sutton (TQ9227390528 to TQ8943589951); Barling (TQ9425890349 to TQ9375089650) and the Roach Estuary Sluices at Butlers Farm (TQ9013590110 and TQ9060090045) and Mucking Hall (TQ9136090000).

The proposed improvement works for the Roach Estuary Tidal Defence will involve the following: Areas where concrete blocks have been removed or dislodged and wash out has occurred by the tides then the area will be packed and a fibre concrete slab will be cast over the void. Some blockwork may be removed and used as toe protection if appropriate. Where defence toes have been exposed and failed they are to be replaced by stepped gabion baskets with the bottom basket embedded at the toe with a mass concrete infill behind the gabion baskets. Vegetation overgrowth will be removed where appropriate.

The proposed improvement works for the Roach Estuary Sluices will involve the following: Downstream outlets will be extended and new headwalls constructed with associated flap valves, handrailing and access ladders. A new walkway is to be provided above the headwall.

The Environment Agency considers that the improvement works are not likely to have significant effects on the environment and does not intend to prepare an environmental statement in respect of them. An Environmental Action Plan will be prepared and can be obtained from the project manager detailed below. Any person wishing to make representations in relation to the likely environmental effects of the proposed improvement works should do so, in writing, to the address specified below, within 28 days of the date of publication of this notice. Phillip McLoughlin, ncps Project Manager, Environment Agency, Kingfisher House, Goldhay Way, Orton Goldhay, Peterborough, PE2 5ZR.

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- (b) Any failure to publish an advertisement on the day / date or day / dates specified by the advertiser; or
- (c) Any delay in forwarding or omission to forward replies to box numbers to the Advertiser.

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TOUGH TOFFEES HOLD HAMMERS

West Ham United

West Ham United 1 Everton 1
Brian Jeeves reporting
from Upton Park

MANUEL Lanzini's brilliant first half goal lit up a competitive but scruffy Barclays Premier League encounter as West Ham and Everton shared the spoils.

The Hammers were keen for a return to winning ways after a disappointing setback at Watford last week.

Nevertheless, Everton, fresh from a 6-2 thrashing of Sunderland, have been a bogey side to the east Londoners. West Ham had won just one of the previous 17 league meetings with the Toffees.

West Ham went close to opening the scoring when Victor Moses fired Dimitri Payet's centre past Everton keeper Tim Howard into the side netting. The visitors responded with Romelu Lukaku a whisker away from adding to his haul of goals against the Hammers after Adrian seemingly misjudged the flight of Arouna Kone's cross.

But it was the Hammers who made the sharper start. Howard was forced into an unorthodox save to keep out Carl Jenkinson, while Aaron Cresswell's follow-up attempt was the wrong side of an upright.

Everton countered. Adrian was called upon to divert Gerard Deulofeu's cross-shot with his feet.

But West Ham already looked the more likely to score, and when tricky

Argentine Lanzini found some space 20 yards from goal, he beat Howard with an exquisite right-footed finish high into the net.

West Ham were seemingly controlling the contest, however just before the break the Toffees restored parity, and it was a familiar foe who did the damage. Lukaku burst clear before rounding Adrian to score his seventh goal in as many games against the Hammers after England hopeful Ross Barkley picked him out with a terrific defence-splitting pass.

The goal dented the home side as it was Everton who returned for the second period with a spring in their step. Barkley's dead ball effort did very little to trouble Adrian, while the home side's concerns grew further when playmaker Payet limped off with what appeared to be an ankle injury, to be replaced by the returning Enner Valencia.

An uneasy atmosphere took hold of the Upton Park faithful as West Ham struggled to regain any momentum.

Howard had to scramble from his goal to thwart both Noble and Valencia, while Lanzini's toil almost paid dividends, as the American keeper finger-tipped his stinging low drive behind. Valencia had not long been on the field when an innocuous challenge from Seamus Coleman resulted in the Ecuadorian being stretched off, Mauro Zarate was the replacement.

Their misfortune seemed to galvanise the Hammers who probed with a little more purpose. Andy Carroll nodded Moses's flag-kick inches over,

while Jenkinson warmed the palms of Howard after breaking from deep.

But Everton almost snatched it late on when Lukaku stabbed Brendan Galloway's cross agonisingly wide.

Speaking after the game, Hammers boss Slaven Bilic said: "It was a good game. I'm really happy with the way we played, especially after the way we played at Watford and especially in front of our own fans against a big club and a good team."

"On one hand we are never happy when we don't win, especially at home. We are always looking to win a game, but I can't be unhappy with the way we played."

"They deserved something from the game, definitely."

On the injuries to Payet and Valencia, Bilic said: "I don't know yet. I've been in football long enough to know not to listen to first opinions. We have to wait for the scans for both of them."

"I think the first one [Payet] was a bad challenge. The second one was an 'English challenge' – ball and everything."

"But as I say, I'm hoping and I'm optimistic. I hope they are going to be OK for the Spurs game."

Everton chief Roberto Martinez stated: "I think West Ham started better than us in the first half."

"I thought the first 20 minutes we were coming to terms. We put a lot of emphasis into wanting to be solid."

"Our performance against Sunderland was exciting to watch on the ball. We had the right mindset to be tested today defensively."

Martinez was delighted with the response from his side after they fell behind, saying: "For the first 15-20 minutes we were coming to terms, that's when we conceded the goal, which is disappointing from our point of view. It was a great finish from Lanzini, but he's got a lot of space, too much space, on the edge of the box."

"From that point on I thought we came really strong. Looking at our second half performance, we kept West Ham really quiet, we nullified them. The disappointment is that we couldn't find that little bit of magic that we had with Gerard Deulofeu for the goal."

West Ham United look forward to a mouthwatering London derby with Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane on Sunday, November 22, kick-off 4pm, but without midfielder Payet who has now been ruled out for three months with an ankle injury.

West Ham United: Adrian, Winston Reid, Aaron Cresswell, James Tomkins, Cheikhou Kouyate, Andy Carroll (Nikica Jelavic), Carl Jenkinson, Mark Noble (Capt), Victor Moses, Dimitri Payet (Enner Valencia) (Mauro Zarate), Maunel Lanzini. Subs not used: Darren Randolph, Mauro Zarate, Angelo Ogbonna, Michail Antonio, Josh Cullen.

Everton: Tim Howard, John Stones, Arouna Kone (Kevin Mirallas), Romelu Lukaku, James McCarthy, Gareth Barry (Capt), Gerard Deulofeu (Aaron Lennon), Ross Barkley, Seamus Coleman, Ramiro Funes Mori, Brendan Galloway. Subs not used: Joel Robles, Darron Gibson, Steven Naismith, Leon Osman, Mason Holgate.

Referee: Paul Tierney
Assistants: David Bryan and Adam Nunn
Fourth Official: Martin Atkinson.
Attendance: 34,977

Non-league round-up

Taaffe double lifts Concord

By Brian Jeeves

LEWIS Taaffe grabbed a brace as National League South outfit Concord Rangers enjoyed an eye-catching away-day at Weston-super-Mare.

James White was also on the score-sheet as the Beach Boys won 3-0 in the West Country, a result that lifts them to 15th in the table.

But Essex rivals Chelmsford City slipped to defeat against Truro City at the Melbourne Stadium. Hugo Skepeltorn fired the Clarets into an early lead, but the visitors hit back before the break through Jamie Reid and Ryan Brett to snatch the points.

In the Ryman Premier League Grays Athletic saw off Burgess Hill Town by two goals to nil. Bradley Fortnam-Tomlinson and Dumela Dumaka with the goals. Sam Lechmere and Ryan O'Rawe struck in the second half as Brentwood Town won by the same score at VCD Athletic.

East Thurrock United beat Hampton & Richmond Borough by the odd goal in three at Rookery Hill. Ryan Scott and Harry Honesty with the Rocks goals.

Meanwhile, Billericay Town shared the spoils at Enfield Town, the match eventually ending in an entertaining 2-2 draw.

But it was a bad day on the road for Canvey Island. The Gulls have been in decent form of late, but they were no match for hosts Bognor Regis Town who ran out 5-0 winners.

Thurrock were the region's big winners in Ryman League Division One North. David Cowley and Ross Wall both hit a brace while Michael Toner was also on target as visitors Wroxham were thrashed 5-1 at Ship Lane.

Tony Martin, Emiel Aiken and Jack Carlile found the net as Tilbury beat Romford 3-1.

Chinedu McKenzie replied for Romford, while Aveley were victorious on the road, winning 2-1 at Waltham Abbey.

But it wasn't such a good afternoon for several of our other local clubs.

Jay Nash was Great Wokingham Rovers' goalscorer in a 2-1 setback to Maldon & Tiptree at Burroughs Park. Darren McQueen bagged both for the winners.

Kemarr Salmon was Barking's marksman in a 4-1 defeat at Bury Town, while Heybridge Swifts went down 3-1 at home to Soham Town Rangers.

There were plenty of goals in the Essex Senior League with Barking leading the way with a 5-1 thumping of Enfield 1893.

Basildon United and Wadhaw Lodge played out an epic seven-goal thriller, but the hosts ran out 4-3 winners.

Ilford produced an impressive performance to see off league leaders Sawbridgeworth 3-0 at the Cricklefield Stadium, and their away wins for Hullbridge, 3-1 at Sporting Bengal United, and Southend Manor, 2-1 at Burnham Ramblers.

In selected action in the ProKit UK Essex Olympian League, Springfield won their Premier Division clash with Rayleigh Town 2-0, meanwhile, in Division One Leigh Ramblers and Runwell Hospital played out a 2-2 draw.

Gt Wokingham frustrated by AFC

Ladies Football

Great Wokingham Ladies 0
AFC Sudbury Ladies 1
By Brian Jeeves

GREAT Wokingham Ladies slipped to a disappointing defeat in a scrappy encounter at Burroughs Park.

Great Wokingham had hoped to build on their first Eastern Region Women's League Premier Division victory when Haringey Borough were the visitors seven days ago.

However, Emma Squirrel grabbed the only goal just after the hour mark to take the points back to Suffolk.

Great Wokingham's best chance fell to Rhianne Cunningham just after the break, but the striker was off-target when one-on-one with the AFC Sudbury goalkeeper.

Speaking after the game, Great Wokingham manager Paul Smith said: "I was disappointed with this defeat as we just didn't create enough chances. We worked hard but our final ball was just not good enough."

"These are games that we should be taking points from, and I was hopeful that following our good performance last week against Haringey, that we would."



BEST CHANCE: Rhianne Cunningham
Picture Courtesy of Great Wokingham Ladies FC

"The ladies need to work hard this week in training as we have a tough cup game against Billericay on Sunday."

Orient hit Staines for six

Football

Leyton Orient 6 Staines Town 1
The Emirates FA Cup First Round
By Rowland Lyons

LEYTON Orient put their stuttering League Two promotion push on the back burner and hit their lowly Isthmian League visitors for six, last Saturday.

Ollie Palmer and talisman Dean Cox both grabbed first-half braces, before John Marquis and Sean Clohessy completed the rout. Former Orient skipper Darren Purse hit the Swans' consolation.

Trying to forget the Accrington reverse from the previous weekend, the O's wasted no time when Palmer converted Fraser Shaw's third minute cross, before the recalled left-back fed Cox to net with an instinctive finish barely five minutes later.

Orient continued to make their superiority count and were 3-0 up inside 13 minutes when Palmer easily scored – again from close range.

Purse, who captained Orient as a 17-year old more than 20 years ago, reduced the deficit with a smart finish on 23 minutes. But Orient showed no mercy less than 10 minutes later when Cox hit home a trademark stunning 30-yard free-kick.

Orient could be forgiven for taking their foot off the gas after the break but they warmed up for Sunday's live TV showdown at Hartlepool (kick-off 12-15pm), with Marquis and Clohessy smartly netting their first goals in Orient colours.



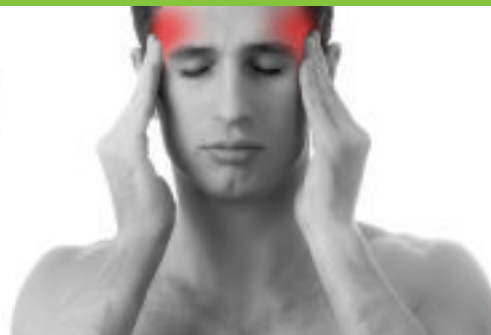
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The Problem

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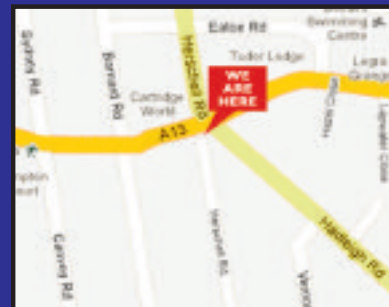
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